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THAT'S RIGHT: THOSE BAGGY BOARD SHORTS ARE OUT IN FAVOUR OF SMALLER, TIGHTER SWIMWEAR PAGE 29

Police budget at the heart of city's financial woe: Soknacki

Mayoral candidate pitches change to cop shifts PAGE 6

Dog and cat owners living together — no mass hysteria!

Map shows Torontonians like to keep enemies closer PAGE 4

Canadian creators on deck for TIFF

Officials announce lineup of homegrown talent, including award winners, newcomers and plenty of women PAGE 8

NEWS WORTH SHARING.

Actor playing Rob Ford will crack you up

Ford of the Dance. This artist isn't out to get you, Mr. Mayor — in fact, he's crazy for you

He sings, dances, smokes crack and gets wasted. It's all fiction, of course, but the antics that Sheldon Bergstrom will bring to the Toronto stage next month are inspired by a very real saga.

Bergstrom, a 42-year-old actor from Saskatchewan, recently landed the lead role in the upcoming production of Rob Ford the Musical: Birth of a Ford Nation.

Actor Sheldon Bergstrom, 42
CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

How closely have you followed the Rob Ford saga?

I've been following Rob Ford since before he was even the mayor ... I've been utterly fascinated by him. He's an interesting character, and to get to play somebody who's got so many different levels is a real treat and a real trick.

What drew you to this role?

He is like a mixture of a Shakespearean and a cartoon character, like no one has ever created. We hear these lovely touching things, like him coaching football. I think that is so honourable and I admire him for that. And then, the next minute, we see a video of him out in the street, belligerent and inebriated in some way.

As an actor, how are you going to get into the skin of a character like that?

He really is more complex than I think people realize. I have my work cut out for me. But I sincerely want him to come and see this show — and enjoy it. So I will do whatever I can to portray him in a fair light.

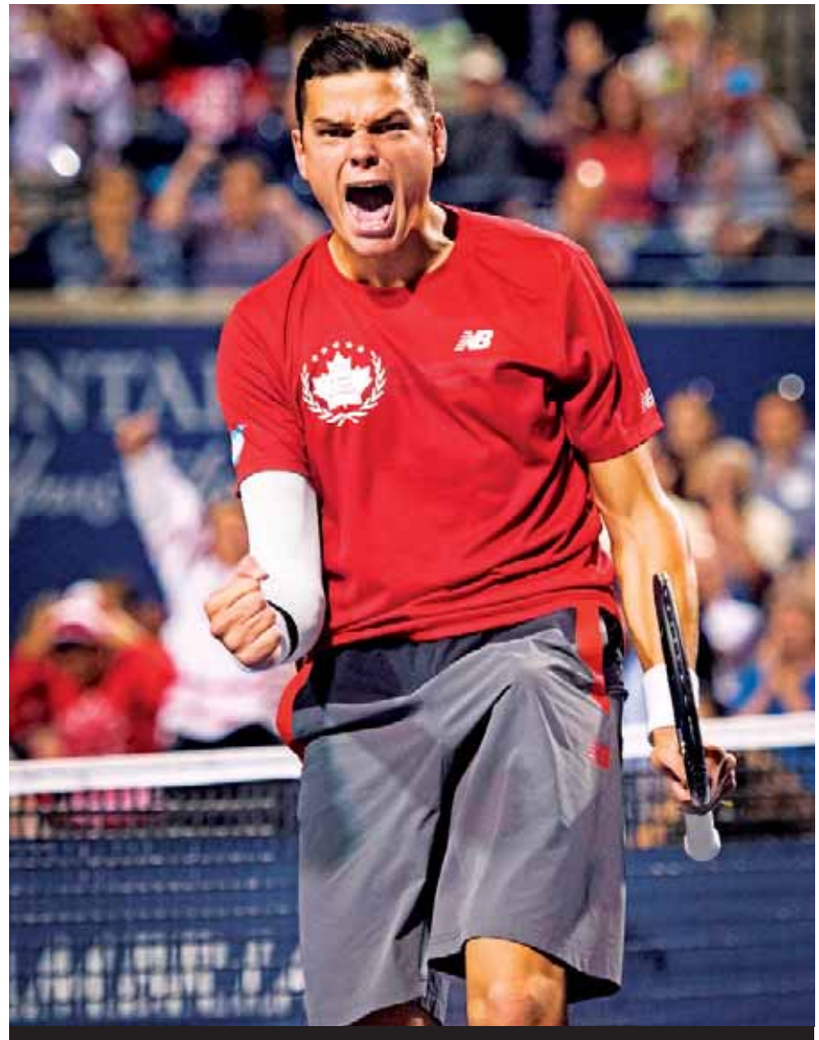
Why do you think you were chosen for this role?

I don't know if there are that many extremely obese, singing crackheads in Canada, so I figured that narrowed down the options right away (laughs).

To answer that seriously, I think because I've watched him for a lot of years and I have a bit of a fondness and a curiosity for him.

Are you doing anything unconventional to prepare — like actually see what it's like to trip out on crack cocaine, or change your diet?

My diet's probably way worse than Mr. Ford's, so I'm not one to judge there. And I'm a little too chicken to try crack. But there is a scene in the show where I have to play (him) inebriated ... I am considering spending one night getting a little tipsy and then recording myself doing the lines. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



LAST CANUCK STANDING

Milos Raonic of Thornhill puts his 'Gotcha!' face on after defeating American Jack Sock in men's second-round action at the Rogers Cup in Toronto on Wednesday. Raonic pulled off a tiebreaker in the third set for the win. Story, page 42. DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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City backtracks on flexi-posts for Adelaide West cycle track

Pilot project. Includes a westbound lane on Richmond Street West

Toronto's council voted 39-0 in June to install a "cycle track" on downtown Adelaide Street West as part of a pilot project.

The city did not build a cycle track.

A cycle track is a bike lane physically separated from the rest of traffic. The government report on the Adelaide project, from transportation chief Stephen Buckley, suggested the city would use "flexi-posts."

But there were no posts of any kind when the eastbound Adelaide lane opened with fanfare last week, nor any other physical barrier. Cyclists are kept apart from motorized vehicles only by white lines painted on the road and a metre-wide buffer zone.

Advocacy group Cycle Toronto demanded Wednesday that city transportation officials comply with council's directive. Buckley rejected the group's concerns.

Buckley acknowledged that the current lane is probably best defined as a "buffered bike lane," not the cycle track council voted for. But he noted that council also "voted for a pilot."

In a pilot project, he said, his department has the flexibility to experiment and see what works. He said he has asked his staff to "play with some things" and closely monitor the results.

"There's folks out there that — they want what they want. And they have in their mind what they want. And I'll say I think that the folks should trust the civil servants that are working on this, and let us sort of try new things. Which is the whole point of doing a pilot," Buckley said.

Jared Kolb, Cycle Toronto's executive director, said council did not give Buckley the freedom to decide whether or not to erect a physical barrier. Council's language, he said, is "very clear": The city is to create a separated lane.

"That has been the intent from council the whole time," Kolb said. "I see what Steve is getting at there. However, if there was going to be a multi-phase implementation plan, that very much could have been included in the June pilot-project item. It wasn't. The direction was to build cycle tracks."

Buckley said flexible posts "create a lot of operational issues". The posts get ruined during winter, can become "tripping hazards" if they get knocked over, and impede mechanical street-sweeping machines.

He also said he has seen only one or two motorized vehicles encroach on the lane each time he has visited the site. Some cyclists say the problem is more severe.

"Took the Adelaide bike lanes for the first time today," architect Paul Kulig wrote on Twitter. "On my way to work I ran into: a dump truck, a station wagon, a minivan, three Beck Taxi cabs, a glass delivery truck, a concrete truck, a pump truck, a CAA vehicle and an 18-wheeler parked in the lane."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A cyclist rides east on Adelaide Wednesday. The city defines cycle tracks as "separate lanes for bicycles that are adjacent to the roadway, but separated from vehicular traffic." This installation, however, is a painted buffer strip instead. ANDREW FRANCIS WALLACE/TORONTO STAR

Stintz would ditch tax break for vacant properties

Karen Stintz TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Mayoral candidate Karen Stintz says she would abolish the city's tax break for vacant commercial properties, create an office to resolve development disputes, and merge four economic development entities into one agency focused on helping entrepreneurs.

Stintz, who announced her economic platform on Wednesday, said she would assist Toronto's "job-creators" while also keeping property tax increases within the rate of inflation and making further cuts to a bureaucracy the city manager says is already lean.

The provincial government requires municipalities to give 30 per cent property tax rebates to landlords with vacant commercial or industrial space. Toronto offers the tax break to landlords whose properties have been vacant for more than 90 consecutive days.

The program gives them an inadvertent incentive to keep storefronts unused, a particular problem for low-income suburban areas — though about half of the rebates are for properties downtown. The city paid out $367 million in rebates between 2001 and 2013.

"Basically, we pay landlords right now to keep their premises empty. And every dollar we pay back to landlords, we're not investing back in those neighbourhoods," Stintz said on a street corner across from the city hall.

The province would have to agree to let the city cancel the program. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Cat and dog owners flock together

Mapping. City tracks pet data via licensing, a form of animal identification

LUKE SIMCOE
Metro Online

New data from the City of Toronto shows that cat people and dog people can peacefully coexist.

The city records licensed cats and dogs, and groups them by the first three digits of their postal code, also known as a forward sortation area. Metro took the data and used it to map where Toronto's furry population is most dense (go to metronews.ca to view the interactive maps).

In almost every instance, neighbourhoods with higher concentrations of dogs also had higher numbers of cats, suggesting animal lovers cluster together, regardless of their particular pet persuasion.

Homes outside the core were more likely to own pets than their counterparts downtown. In particular, the per-capita number of cats and dogs was highest in south Etobicoke, York Mills and the Beaches.

"(The Beaches) is a great physical environment to own a pet. It's a mature neighbourhood and the beach is there. There's also great dog parks," said Mary Lou Leiher, a program manager with Toronto Animal Services.

"We need to do a better job of getting information out there about pet licensing and why it's a good thing. It's mandatory identification for your pet, so if you get separated you can be reunited with your pet fairly easily."

Dogs appear to vastly outnumber cats in the interactive map. Only one forward sortation area — M4H in East York — showed a higher concentration of purrers than puppies.

Looking at the map, Leiher said it fails to show a trend toward increased dog ownership in downtown condos. Some larger condominiums in the city report as many as seven dogs per floor, many of them unlicensed.

"People are realizing they can have a dog in their condo, and they can do it quite successfully," Leiher said. "But it is a lot harder for us to do enforcement."

Although pet licensing is often seen as a "dog thing," Leiher desperately wants more cat owners to register their animals.

"Toronto doesn't have a dog problem, it has a cat problem," she said, citing municipal shelters overflowing with felines. "There's just not enough owners for cats that need owners."

A little goes a long way

A pet licence costs $60 annually for dogs ($25 if the animal is spayed or neutered) and $50 for cats ($15 if spayed or neutered) and includes a microchip. All funds collected go toward Animal Services and help run adoption programs and spay-neuter clinics.

Mary Lou Leiher, a program manager with Toronto Animal Services, wants more pet owners to license their dogs and cats. ANDREW FRANCIS WALLACE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Lead concerns

City mulls loans to replace pipes

Homeowners could soon replace their lead pipes with the help of government loans under a new program recommended by city officials but opposed by the head of the public works committee.

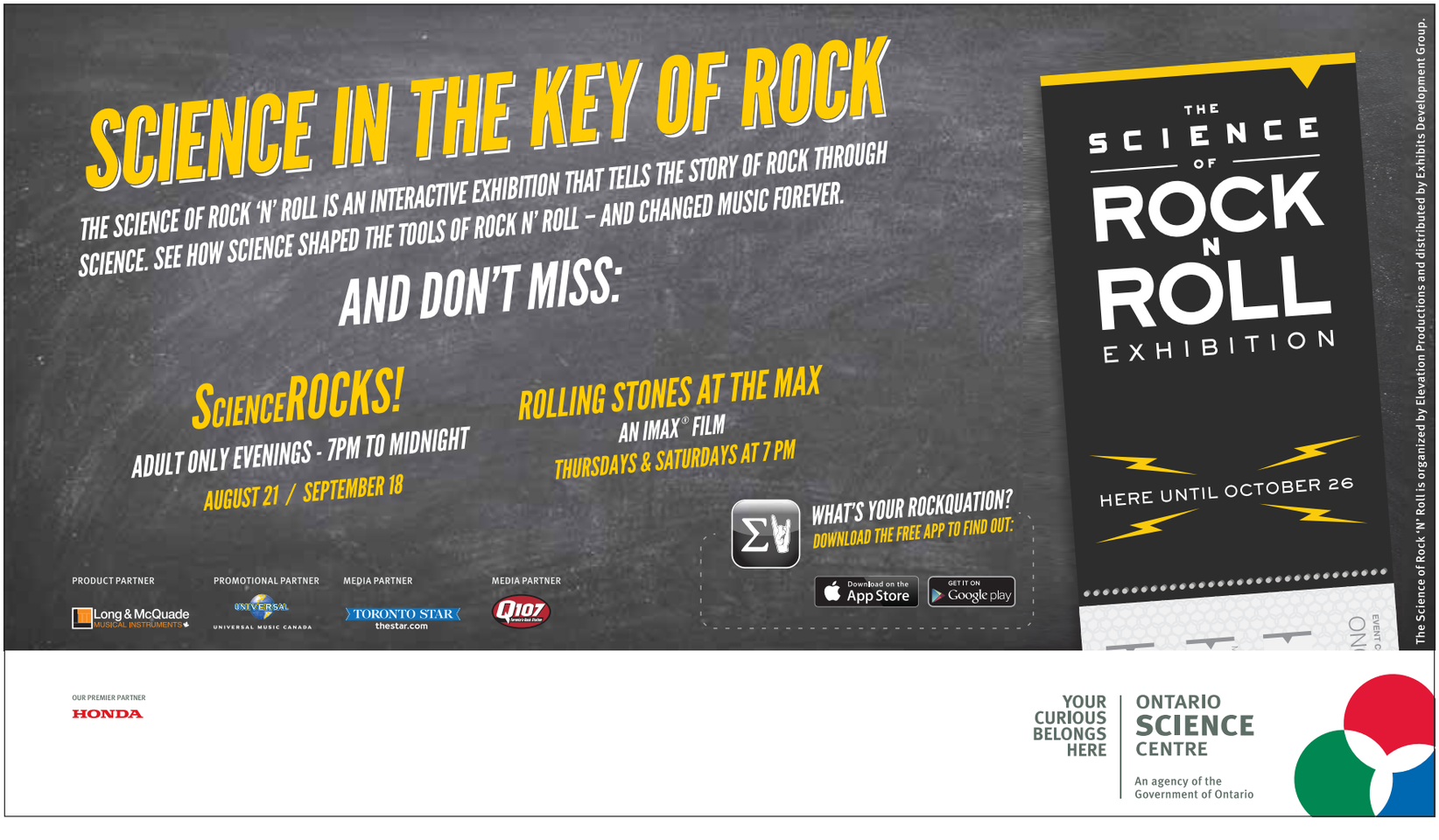
The recommendations come after it was revealed that 13 per cent of all households tested had an unsafe level of lead in their drinking water.

There is an estimated $3,000 bill upfront to replace pipes. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Visual effects

Stereo D opening office in T.O.?

Canada could soon be home to a leading California visual effects company, noted for converting blockbuster films into 3D. Stereo D is already advertising Toronto jobs on its website, though it has yet to lease space here. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE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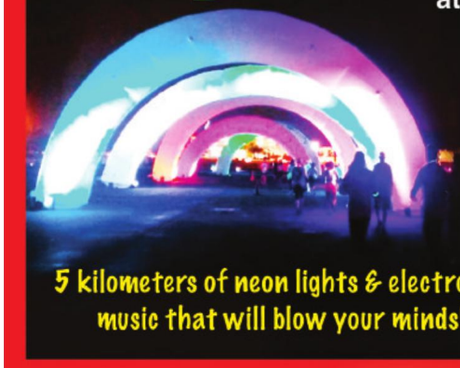

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Soknacki aims to reduce police budget

Election. Mayoral candidate pushes 8-8-8 model for police shifts

JESSICA SMITH CROSS
jessica.smithcross@metronews.ca

David Soknacki is vowing that if he's elected Toronto's mayor he'll take an active role on the Police Services Board, unlike his predecessors.

Soknacki announced Wednesday part of his plan to reduce the police budget and change the way policing is done in Toronto.

"When elected mayor I'll sit on the police services board. I'll act on a plan, that, once fully implemented, will save over $65 million per year," Soknacki said. "My plan will actually help the fight against crime since we can modernize police practices in line with changes in place in many other cities."

Recent Toronto mayors Rob Ford and David Miller sent councillors as designates to sit on the board. Apart from sitting on the board, Soknacki suggested he could also be its chair.

"If we can fix the police budget, we can fix Toronto's budget, and if we can fix Toronto's budget we can afford to build the city we want," he said.

Soknacki is also proposing a strategic review of policing to modernize the force. One area he highlighted for change was police interaction with citizens with mental-health issues.

Soknacki said he's been consulting with Toronto police officers who "have lots of stuff on their lapels" — meaning they're senior officers — but they did not want to be identified. They, and Soknacki, expect lots of "pushback" to his ideas.

"There's lots of vested interests involved," he said.

Toronto Police Association chair Mike McCormack said a mayor's active involvement on the Police Service's Board isn't necessarily a good idea and said it may be better for the mayor to be "arms length."

"I think that there has to be strong civilian oversight for policing, but I don't know if that necessarily needs to involve the chief magistrate of the city — the mayor," said McCormack. "Especially given recent events, it may not have been the best of ideas to have a mayor sitting on the Police Services Board."

Mayoral candidate David Soknacki, left, outlines his policing strategy Wednesday at the Sheraton Centre.
JESSICA SMITH CROSS/METRO

Soknacki's first plan to reduce the police budget is to change the police shift schedule. Officers work 10-hour day shifts, 10-hour evening shifts and eight-hour night shifts, in a schedule with four hours a day where the shifts overlap — meaning the city pays for 28 policing hours a day.

The overlap model was negotiated as part of the current contract.

Soknacki is proposing to move to a model with less overlap — something that has been proposed as a cost-saving measure for Toronto numerous times in the past, including in a 2011 Ernst & Young report that found a model with no overlap would save $25 million a year.

While it wouldn't reduce the number of police officers, it would keep them on shift for fewer hours.

McCormack said the 8-8-8 model makes it difficult to schedule more officers at peak times, when they're needed, making it actually less efficient than the current model.

Outgoing Chief Bill Blair said in 2011, according to Now Magazine, that the 10-10-8 model the police currently used is the one that "lacks flexibility," doesn't allow more officers to be scheduled at times they are needed and is an "obvious inefficiency."

Police communications would not confirm whether Blair stands by those comments today, as the chief does not comment on election-related issues.

Soknacki said he will have more suggestions on reducing the police budget in the coming week. He also supports many of the suggestions for reform contained in a 2011 report by the police board, which have not been implemented. The report recommended structural changes and "civilianization"— allowing trained civilians to take some roles currently held by officers.

"Everything I'm proposing has been done safely in other cities," said Soknacki.

Quoted

"If we can fix the police budget, we can fix Toronto's budget."
David Soknacki, mayoral candidate

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TIFF lays out Canadian slate

Talent. Xavier Dolan, Denys Arcand, Ruba Nadda, Sturla Gunnarsson, and Alanis Obomsawin among Canadian contingent at TIFF

Award-winning filmmakers Xavier Dolan, Denys Arcand, Ruba Nadda, Sturla Gunnarsson and Alanis Obomsawin are amongst the cavalcade of Canuck talent announced Wednesday for the Canadian contingent at TIFF 2014.

Dolan's intense mother/son/friend drama Mommy, the Jury Prize winner at Cannes in May, makes its Toronto debut at TIFF, Sept. 4-14. Anne Dorval, Suzanne Clément and Antoine Olivier Pilon star.

Montreal actor/director Dolan steps in front of the camera for The Elephant Song, Charles Binane's screen adaptation of a Nicolas Billon stage drama about the mind games between a psychiatrist and patient. Bruce Greenwood and Catherine Keener co-star in this world premiere for TIFF.

Dolan's eye for new talent might also be seen in Cannes and Oscar winner Denys Arcand's marital drama An Eye for Beauty, making its Toronto bow at TIFF. The film's star Éric Bruneau previously appeared in supporting roles in Dolan's Les Amours Imaginaires and Laurence Anyways. Arcand's latest co-stars Mélanie Thierry, Melanie Merkosky and Marie-Josée Croze.

TIFF senior programmer Steven Gravestock told a Fairmont Royal York Hotel news conference he and Canadian features programmer Agata Del Sorbo watched hundreds of films to select the few dozen that were being announced for several TIFF programs.

These included films by many established directors and also "new voices on the filmmaking scene that we know we'll be seeing for years to come," Gravestock said.

Del Sorbo said it was particularly gratifying to see how many films came from first-time directors, many of them women. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Returning to TIFF

Three other TIFF prize winners are returning to the fest next month, each with world premieres:

- **Ruba Nadda**, the 2009 Best Canada Feature winner for Cairo Time
- **Sturla Gunnarsson**, the 2010 People Choice Award (Documentary) winner for Force of Nature
- **Alanis Obomsawin**, the 1993 Best Canadian Feature Film winner for Kanehsatake: 270 Years of Resistance.

Canadian actor/director Xavier Dolan, who won the Jury Prize for his film Mommy at the 2014 Cannes Film Festival, speaks to the media in Montreal in this photo taken in May. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Enbridge pipeline

Group says it will continue blockade

Some 30 activists who began a blockade of Enbridge Line 9's construction site near Woodstock early Tuesday vow to continue the protest. They aim to prevent installation of a valve near River Thames. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Infrastructure funding

Wynne pushes feds for more cash

The federal government, which spends about half a per cent of Canada's gross domestic product on infrastructure, should raise it to two per cent of GDP, Premier Kathleen Wynne said Wednesday. All levels of government have under-

Premier Kathleen Wynne in Toronto Wednesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

funded infrastructure since the 1970s and the cracks are starting to show, Wynne said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fashion District

Gas leak empties several buildings

Emergency crews evacuated several buildings in Toronto's Fashion District after a "significant" gas leak Wednesday. Workers renovating a heritage building on King Street West cut a gas line, police say. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Sick Kids

Teen's tumour removed with ultrasound

Doctors at the Hospital for Sick Children have removed a benign tumour from a 16-year-old Brampton boy's leg bone using a cutting-edge heat procedure that does away with any form of invasive surgery.

Jack Campanile is believed to be the first in North America to be treated using high-intensity focused ultrasound to destroy the osteoid osteoma.

For almost a year, Jack had been suffering with severe pain in his upper leg, which made it difficult to play some of the sports he loves. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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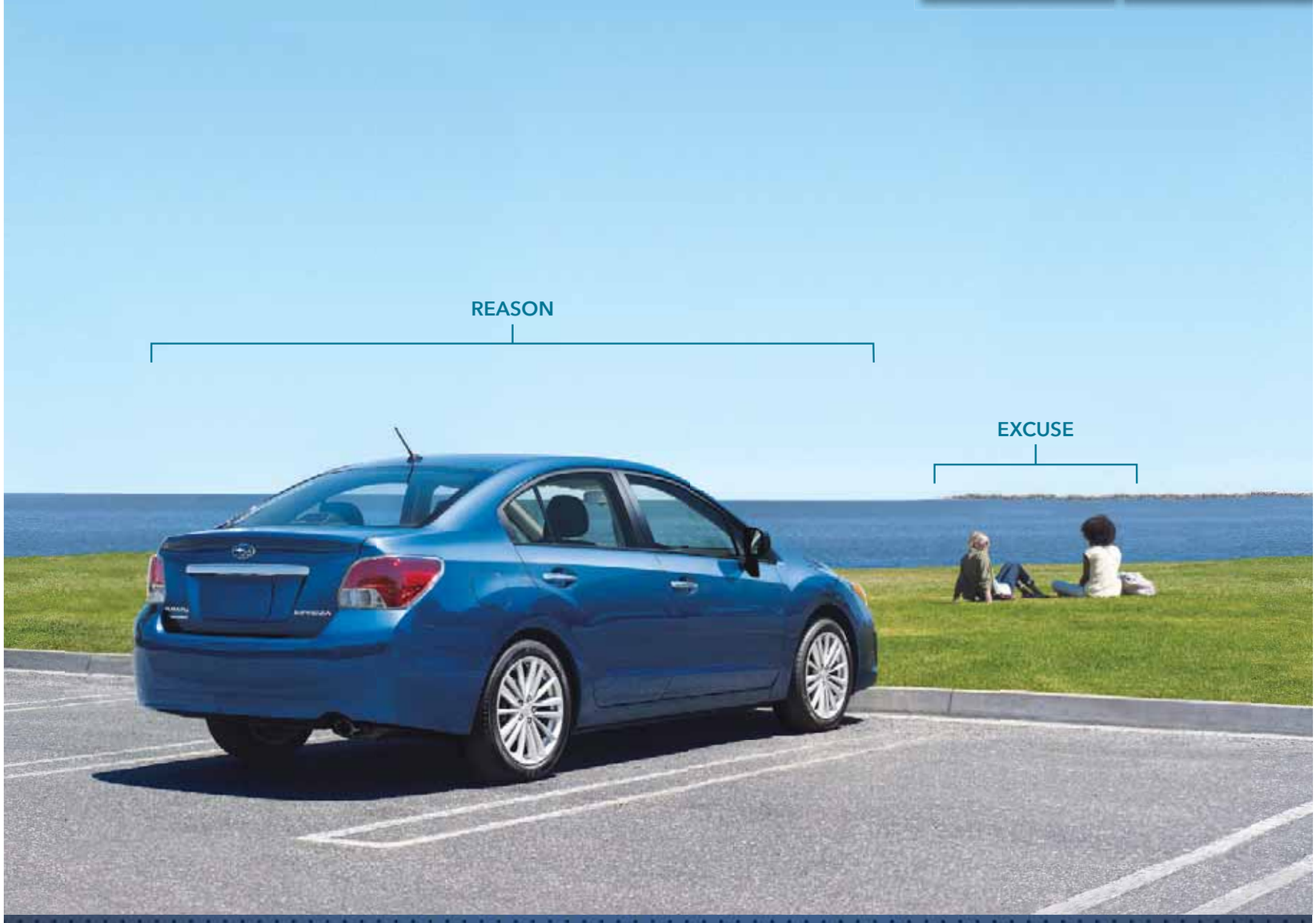

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Experimental Ebola drug sparks debate

'The responsible thing to do.' Ethical questions raised amid deadly outbreak about who gets access to treatment

The use of an experimental drug to treat two Americans diagnosed with Ebola is raising ethical questions about who gets first access to unproven new therapies for the deadly disease. But some health experts fear debate over extremely limited doses will distract from tried-and-true measures to curb the growing outbreak — like more rapidly identifying and isolating the sick.

The World Health Organization is convening a meeting of medical ethicists next week to examine what it calls "the responsible thing to do" about whatever supplies eventually may become available of a medicine that's never been tested on people.

At least one country involved in the outbreak is interested in the drug: Nigeria's health minister said at a news conference that he had asked U.S. officials about access.

There is no proven treatment or vaccine for Ebola, which so far has infected more than 1,700 and killed more than 930 in West Africa.

"How many times have we found magic therapies that ended up ... doing more harm than good?" cautioned University of Minnesota professor Michael Osterholm, who advises the U.S. government on infectious disease threats.

"Vaccine and drug treatment right now is not going to be the main way you bring this to a stop," he added.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Messages of peace and hope in Hiroshima

A girl prepares to release paper lanterns bearing messages of peace in the Motoyasu River near the Atomic Bomb Dome in Hiroshima, Japan, on Wednesday, as Japan marked the 69th anniversary of the atomic bombing of the city. KYODO NEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Italy

Concordia captain called 'unworthy' as safety lecturer

A Rome university professor is facing a disciplinary hearing after inviting Capt. Francesco Schettino of the shipwrecked Costa Concordia to lecture students on emergency procedures.

The dean of Rome's Sapienza University on Wednesday called it an "inappropriate and unworthy choice." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kenya

Man who offered livestock to marry Chelsea Clinton killed by elephant

The editor of a weekly magazine says journalist Godwin Chepkurgor, the Kenyan man who once offered former U.S. president Bill Clinton 40 goats and 20 cows for his daughter Chelsea's hand in marriage, has been killed by an elephant. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Space probe catches comet after 10-year chase

Rendezvous with a comet. They found each other somewhere between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter

Turning what seemed like a science-fiction tale into reality, an unmanned probe swung alongside a comet on Wednesday after a 6.4-billion kilometre chase through outer space over the course of a decade.

Europe's Rosetta probe will orbit and study the giant lump of dust and ice as it hurtles toward the sun and, if all goes according to plan, drop a lander onto the comet in the coming months.

Rosetta turned up as planned for its rendezvous with comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko somewhere between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter.

The incredible trip, launched on March 2, 2004, marks a milestone in mankind's effort to understand the mysterious "shooting stars" that periodically flash past Earth, and which have often been viewed with fear and trepidation.

While the moon, Mars and even asteroids have been visited, no spacecraft has yet gotten so close to a comet. Having achieved this feat, Rosetta will go one step further and drop a lander on 67P's icy surface — a manoeuvre planned for November.

"You can compare what we've done so far to finding a speck of dust in a big city," said Gerhard Schwehm, who was lead scientist on the Rosetta mission until his recent retirement.

That's probably an understatement.

To catch their quarry, scientists at the European Space Agency had to overcome a series of hurdles that included a last-minute change of destination — after a carrier rocket failure delayed launch — and a tense hibernation period of 31 months during which the probe was out of contact with ground stations.

Before Rosetta swung alongside 67P with a final thrust Wednesday, the spacecraft also had to accelerate to 55,000 k.p.h. — a speed that required three loops around Earth and one around Mars.

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Houston airport

Contract worker dies after fall

A contract worker has died after falling about 45 feet from an elevated rail track at George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston.

Houston police say the accident happened Tuesday night as the worker checked the tracks.

Airport spokesman David Hebert on Wednesday said the Bombardier Transportation worker was walking along the line when he fell, and that he likely lost his footing.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Checkpoint

Woman sneaks onto plane after three attempts

Federal law enforcement officials say a woman tried at least three times to breach Mineta San Jose International Airport security, before she was able to get through a checkpoint without a boarding pass.

The officials said Wednesday that Marilyn Hartman bypassed an agent who was screening boarding passes, by sneaking through with a family on Monday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Michael Worthington. Missouri man put to death for rape, murder

A Missouri man was put to death Wednesday for raping and killing a college student in 1995, making him the first U.S. prisoner executed since a lethal injection in Arizona last month in which an inmate took nearly two hours to die.

The Missouri Department of Corrections said Michael Worthington was executed by lethal injection at the state prison south of St. Louis and was pronounced dead at 12:11 a.m., 10 minutes after the process began. He is the seventh Missouri inmate executed this year.

Worthington, 43, had been sentenced to death for the attack on 24-year-old Melinda (Mindy) Griffin during a burglary of her Lake St. Louis condominium.

Before the execution began, while strapped to a gurney and covered with a sheet, Worthington spoke with his witnesses — some of them his relatives — through the glass, raising his shaved head.

When the drugs began flowing, his head lowered back to the pillow and he appeared to breathe heavily for about 15 seconds before closing his eyes for good. Some of his witnesses began crying after he fell unconscious. A Bible had been placed on his chest at his request.

The U.S. Supreme Court and Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon had declined on Tuesday to block the execution.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Michael Worthington

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

A local woman collects fragments of a shell, the result of night shelling on a market in Donetsk, eastern Ukraine, Wednesday. SERGEI GRITS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tensions rise in Ukraine as Russian army lines border

'It's a threat, it's a possibility'. Putin shows signs of fighting back against sanctions from the West

The steadily advancing Ukrainian army is setting its sights on the largest rebel-held city in eastern Ukraine, while Western officials on Wednesday warned that a Russian military buildup on Ukraine's border could herald a major incursion to protect the separatists.

President Vladimir Putin has resisted mounting pressure from Russian nationalists to send the army in to back the mutiny in eastern Ukraine. Even though the U.S. and NATO would be unlikely to respond militarily, the West would be certain to impose major sanctions that would put the shaky Russian economy on its knees — and could quickly erode Putin's power.

Russia already is showing signs of economic dismay from sanctions imposed earlier this year, but Putin on Wednesday showed Moscow aims to fight back, calling on government agencies to develop a list of agricultural imports from sanctions-imposing countries that could be banned for up to a year.

"When you see the buildup of Russian troops and the sophistication of those troops, the training of those troops, the heavy military equipment that's being put along that border, of course it's a reality. It's a threat, it's a possibility — absolutely," U.S. Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel said Wednesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pro-Russian separatists

U.S. and NATO officials say there are now about 20,000 Russian troops massed just east of Ukraine.

- Pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine have been fighting the Kyiv government since April. Ukraine and Western countries have accused Moscow of backing the mutiny with weapons and soldiers, a claim the Russian government has repeatedly denied.

'Frustrated and confused'. Canadian couple detained in China is safe, son says

Two days after their arrest in China on suspicion of stealing state secrets, a Canadian couple was able to tell their children Wednesday that they weren't under any physical duress, but remained confused and upset about the allegations.

It was the first message 54-year-old Kevin Garratt and 53-year-old Julia Dawn Garratt were able to convey — through a Canadian consular official — ever since being taken into custody by Chinese officials on Monday night.

"They just wanted everybody to know that they're safe," the couple's oldest son, Simeon Garratt, said.

The couple, who is fluent in Mandarin, has lived in China for the past 30 years and has been running a coffee shop since 2008 in the city of Dandong, which lies on the border with North Korea.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Guam

Parents face abuse charges, not homicide, in death of child in hot car

Parents of a three-month-old boy who died after sitting for hours in a hot car outside their Guam home have been charged with child abuse.

The Pacific Daily News reports the couple were arrested on allegations of negligent homicide. But prosecutors charged them Tuesday with child abuse and leaving a child unattended in a motor vehicle. Both charges are third-degree felonies.

According to court documents, the couple returned to their Yigo home midday Saturday after running errands with their four children. Both assumed someone else had taken the infant out of the car. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Mine operator ordered to plug tailings pond breach into B.C. lakes

Likely, B.C. President of Imperial Metals apologizes to residents living downstream from the toxic flood

An aerial view shows debris going into Quesnel Lake, caused by a tailings pond breach near Likely, B.C.
JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

British Columbia's Environment Ministry has ordered the operator of a mine in the province's central Interior to immediately stop the further release of toxic materials into nearby waterways following a tailings pond burst on Monday.

The government order says Mount Polley Mining Corp. must also undergo an environmental impact assessment and submit a clean-up plan by today, as well as hand over a more detailed plan by Aug. 15.

The company has also been ordered to submit a written summary of the steps it will take to stop the release of mine tailings by next Wednesday, and report on a weekly basis how it will implement its clean-up plan.

The president of Imperial Metals apologized to about 200 residents of Likely, B.C., who are living downstream from a toxic flood from one of the company's gold and copper mines in the British Columbia Interior. "If you had asked me two weeks ago if that could happen, I would have said it couldn't happen, so I know that for our company it's going to take a long time to earn the community's trust back," Brian Kynoch said.

The breach released 10 million cubic metres of water and 4.5 million cubic metres of toxic silt into Polley Lake and Quesnel Lake.

A ban remains in place on all consumption or recreational use of the Quesnel and Cariboo river systems from the spill site to the Fraser River.

The regional district declared a state of local emergency early Wednesday, which will allow access to additional resources that may be needed to further protect the private property and government infrastructure in Likely.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Moms bare stretch marks at Edmonton rally

Tanis Jex-Blake, centre, takes part in a bikini protest along with supporters in Edmonton on Wednesday. Jex-Blake, a mother of five, says she was tanning on a beach west of the city last week when three young people pointed at her stomach and called her — quote — "nasty" and "gross." She later posted an open letter on Facebook describing how she's proud of her scars, not ashamed. Her story has made news in several countries and other women have been proudly sending her photos of their imperfect bellies. Some moms at the Edmonton rally say they decided to show up wearing two-piece swimsuits for the first time in years. JASON FRANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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More than 50 dead following Baghdad car-bomb attacks

Iraq. Dense and populated areas targeted by militant Iraqi Sunnis for car-bomb attacks

A string of car bombs tore through busy shopping streets in several Baghdad neighbourhoods Wednesday night killing 51 people as the army announced one of its airstrikes killed 60 militants in the northern city of Mosul.

Baghdad police said the first attack cme from a pair of car bombs that exploded in the densely populated Shiite neighbourhood of Sadr City, killing 31 people, followed by another bomb in the nearby area of Ur that claimed another 11 lives.

Nine more people were killed in the southeast of the city shortly afterward by two more car bombs.

Baghdad has been on edge since Sunni militants led by the radical Islamic State group conquered large swaths of the country's north, including the second largest city of Mosul. While the fighters have stopped short of advancing on the capital there has been a steady campaign of car bombs in the city. The attack came as state-run television announced a rare government victory with an airstrike in Mosul that killed some 60 suspected militants.

The report, which cited unnamed intelligence officials, could not be independently verified, nor did it say whether any civilians had been killed in the strike on the northern city of Mosul. It did state that the strike freed about 300 people held by the Islamic State group at a downtown Mosul prison.

A Mosul resident, speaking anonymously, told The Associated Press that families of the prisoners rushed to the site to help their relatives after the airstrike.

"The prison was partly damaged in the airstrike," he said. He said he did not know if there were casualties.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Airstrikes

"The prison was partly damaged in the airstrike."

Anonymous Mosul resident

Leaders burned in effigy

Activists of Socialist Unity Center of India, SUCI, burn effigies of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, left and U.S. President Barack Obama during a protest against Israel's attack on Gaza in Kolkata, India, Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2014. BIKAS DAS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Afghanistan

Afghan soldier hid in stall after shooting general

An Afghan soldier who killed a U.S. two-star general and wounded 15 other people hid in a bathroom with a NATO assault rifle, then opened fire when a group of officers from international forces passed by, an Afghan military official said Wednesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Syria

Militant fighters leave town days after capturing it

Some Syrian militant fighters have begun withdrawing from the Lebanese town they captured five days earlier as a new 24-hour ceasefire was announced Wednesday, according to the Lebanese army and the Muslims clerics that mediated the deal.

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Redford resigns seat in legislature amid expense controversy

Effective immediately. Alberta Premier Dave Hancock has called for RCMP to review Redford's provincial aircraft use

Former Alberta Premier Alison Redford. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alberta Premier Dave Hancock on Wednesday called for the RCMP to review the use of provincial aircraft, just after his predecessor Alison Redford resigned her legislature seat amid a festering controversy over her travel expenses.

The developments came ahead of the release of the provincial auditor general's report into government travel slated for Thursday.

In a letter published in the Edmonton Journal and Calgary Herald, Redford acknowledged she made mistakes before quitting as premier last spring to sit as a Progressive Conservative backbencher. She said her resignation as a member of the legislature for Calgary-Elbow was effective immediately.

Hancock said there is material in the auditor's review that police should look at.

"The report identifies a number of areas of concern and I think in the interests of completeness and in the interests of the public being fully satisfied that everything appropriate has been done, that it's appropriate to ask that certain issues in the report be investigated," he said.

Hancock refused to discuss details of the auditor's findings before they are released publicly. But last week, the CBC reported that a leaked copy found that passenger lists on government aircraft were altered so that then-premier Redford could fly alone.

An RCMP spokeswoman said she was limited in what she could say about Hancock's request. Sgt. Josee Valiquette said she didn't believe the Mounties had received an official request yet. She was unable to say what the procedure would be under these particular circumstances.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Montreal

Captured prisoner faces new charges

A convicted murderer who was captured after five days on the lam has been charged in connection with his breakout from a Montreal-area facility. Robert Gaudette faces charges of escaping from lawful custody and forcibly breaking out. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lac-Megantic

Railroad responsible for derailment sells locomotives

Dozens of locomotives once owned by the railroad responsible for last year's derailment in Lac-Megantic have been sold at an auction in Maine. Auctioneer Adam Jokisch says 35 locomotives sold for anywhere from $10,000 to $15,000 to upward of $200,000 apiece. All but seven locomotives were owned by Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railways.

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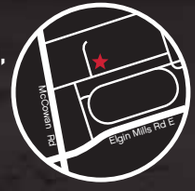

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What will Toronto be like in 2025?

Uh, experts are divided. In 11 years robots could take most of the jobs ... or not. A new survey found respondents split on what the future holds

In 2025, self-driving cars could be the norm, people could have more leisure time and goods could become cheaper. Or, there could be chronic unemployment and an even wider income gap, human interaction could become a luxury and the wealthy could live in walled cities with robots serving as labour.

Or, very little could change.

A new survey released Wednesday by the Pew Research Center's Internet Project and Elon University's Imagining the Internet Center found that, when asked about the impact of artificial intelligence on jobs, nearly 1,900 experts and other respondents were divided over what to expect 11 years from now.

Forty-eight per cent said robots would kill more jobs than they create, and 52 per cent said technology will create more jobs than it destroys.

Respondents also varied widely when asked to elaborate on their expectations of jobs in the next decade. Some said that self-driving cars would be common, eliminating taxi cab and long-haul truck drivers. Some said that we should expect the wealthy to live in seclusion, using robot labour. Others were more conservative, cautioning that technology never moves quite as fast as people expect and humans aren't so easily replaceable.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No crystal ball here

Aaron Smith, senior researcher with the Pew Research Center's Internet Project, said the results were unusually divided.

- He noted that in similar Pew surveys about the Internet over the past 12 years, there tended to be general consensus among the respondents, which included research scientists and a range of others, from business leaders to journalists.

Profits down 19%

No blockbuster profits for Cineplex this summer

Several box-office flops and a lack of family movies left Cineplex Inc.suffering the fallout during the first few months of the summer movie season.

"One or two titles can really change things," chief executive Ellis Jacob said in an interview on Wednesday, after the company reported that profits dropped 19 per cent in the second quarter.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hey, English majors!

Analyze Romeo and Juliet for love, but not for money

If you want to improve your odds of getting a high-paying job after finishing your education, forget that English degree.

A new report by Workopolis suggests that nursing and pharmacy students are most likely to land employment in their field after graduation.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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TD

Missing posters? What about a face-recognition app to find Rover?

This illustration shows how the new smartphone app Finding Rover works. FindingRover.com keeps a database of photos and tries to match eight distinctive facial markers on dogs with images uploaded by users searching for lost pets. FINDINGROVER.COM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Defamation? Hong Kong tycoon can sue over Google autocomplete results

A court has ruled that a Hong Kong tycoon can sue Google over its autocomplete results suggesting he has links to organized crime.

In a judgment released Wednesday, the court dismissed the Internet search giant's objections to tycoon Albert Yeung's defamation lawsuit.

Yeung filed the lawsuit after Google refused to remove autocomplete suggestions such as "triad," as organized crime gangs are known in China, which popped up with searches on his name.

The billionaire's business empire includes an entertainment company that produces films and manages some of the city's biggest celebrities.

He argues that his reputation has been "gravely injured" and wants compensation.

Judge Marlene Ng disagreed with Google's lawyers, who argued Yeung was better off asking the websites where the defamatory information was published to remove it. She said Google had the ability to censor material.

Albert Yeung, left, and his wife in 2009.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

"Any risk of misinformation can spread easily as users forage in the web. The art is to find the comfortable equilibrium in between," she said in her ruling.

It's the latest legal headache for Google over its search service. Earlier this year, the European Union's top court ruled that Google and other search engines must respond to requests seeking removal of links to personal information.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Going once, going twice. Apple business card of Sam Sung up for auction

A former Apple Store employee in Vancouver who shot to Internet fame two years ago after a photo of his business card bearing his name, Sam Sung, went viral online, is auctioning off his last card for charity.

He's now using his name, which is very similar to Samsung, the Hong Kong tech company and Apple rival, to raise money for the B.C. and Yukon chapters of the Children's Wish Foundation of Canada, a not-for-profit that grants wishes to sick children.

Sung hasn't worked for the tech company in years.

But when he recently stumbled upon his last Apple business card when it fell out of a book, he decided to auction it off on eBay, along with his Apple employee T-shirt and name tag.

"I had a great time working for Apple and would recommend it to anyone," Sung wrote on his eBay post.

"I hope my old business card will go to another fellow Apple enthusiast with a sense of humour and the desire to help raise some money for a good cause."

On Wednesday, bidding on the framed, autographed item was already up over $1,000 and steadily climbing by the second.

THANDI FLETCHER/METRO IN VANCOUVER

Market Minute

DOLLAR 91.63¢ (+0.39¢)

TSX 15,202.09 (+14.38)

OIL $96.92 US (-$0.46)

GOLD $1,308.20 US (+$22.90)

Natural gas: $3.94 US (-$0.01)
Dow Jones: 16,443.34 (+13.87)

Giving back with a backpack

Me to We. New line of charity, eco-friendly school supplies helps children around world

JANE DOUCET
For Metro

When Canadian students are ready for their back-to-school shopping, they will want to check out an exclusive new line of eco-friendly school supplies available at Staples. The Me to We Back to School Collection includes backpacks, lunch bags, reusable water bottles, tablet sleeves and notebooks.

Founded by Toronto brothers Craig and Marc Kielburger, Me to We is an innovative social enterprise that offers socially conscious products and services, as well as life-changing volunteer trips. Half of Me to We's net profit is donated to its Free the Children charity.

With each Me to We Back to School Collection product purchased, a child or family in a Free the Children community overseas receives a life-changing gift to help them learn without facing hunger, thirst and financial restraints.

To develop the Back to School Collection, Me to We partnered with ACCO Brands Corp. and Staples. ACCO Brands is one of the world's largest suppliers of branded school, office and consumer products; the company designs, markets and sells products in more than 100 countries.

For the Me to We Back to School Collection, ACCO Brands spent more than a year developing the environmentally friendly products, helping come up with the concept and design, then manufacturing them.

"This partnership was a great fit for our company because we support both sustainability and education," said Cristina Franco, the director of marketing at ACCO Brands.

As part of Me to We's Track Your Impact initiative, all of the school supplies come with a unique eight-digit code for buyers to track exactly where their purchase gives a gift. Each product provides something different; for example, the backpacks give students school supplies for one year, binders ensure that a tree will be planted, lunch bags give a child a healthy meal, and reusable water bottles provide a year of clean drinking water for one person.

"We were very excited and proud when this partnership came to life," Franco said. "It's all about empowering Canadian students to make a positive difference in the world by purchasing cute, cool, high-quality school supplies."

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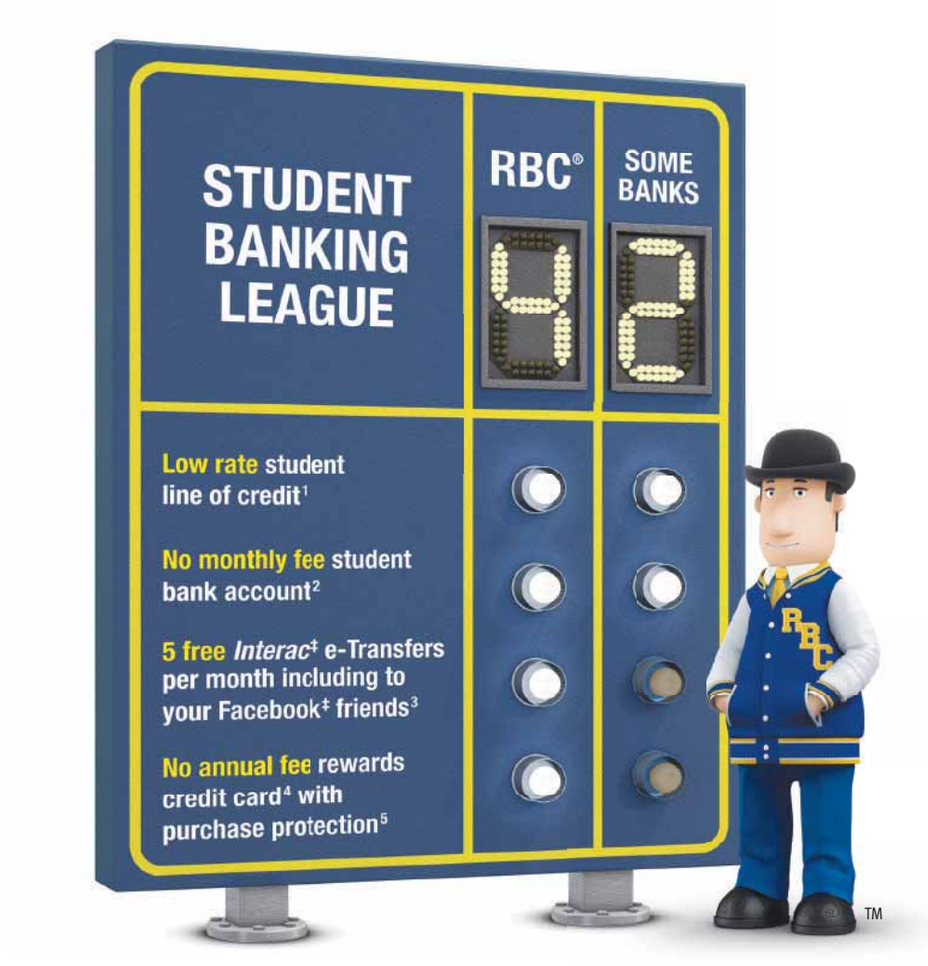
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* No purchase necessary. Contest ends September 30, 2014. Correct answer to skill testing question required. For full contest rules and how to enter without purchase, please visit rbc.com/rules. 1 Personal lending products are provided by Royal Bank of Canada® and subject to its standard lending criteria. Some conditions and restrictions apply. 2 Refers to the RBC Student Banking® account with no monthly fee and 25 debit transactions per month. 3 Additional *Interac* e-Transfers are $1 each. Totals are not cumulative and, if not used, cannot be carried over into the next applicable monthly cycle or calendar year. *Interac* e-Transfers to a Facebook contact currently only available for iPhone and iPad. 4 Refers to RBC Rewards® Visa‡ Gold card. Subject to credit approval. To see a list of eligible credit cards for students, please visit: rbc.com/studentcards. 5 Refers to Purchase Security and Extended Warranty Insurance. Coverage underwritten by RBC General Insurance Company in the province of Quebec and by RBC Insurance Company of Canada in the rest of Canada. All insurance is subject to limitations and exclusions. ® / ™ Trademark(s) of Royal Bank of Canada. RBC and Royal Bank are registered trademarks of Royal Bank of Canada. ‡ All other trademarks are the property of their respective owner(s).

THE SEVEN LEVELS OF CONCERT HELL

HE SAYS

John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

My fellow concert-goers can go to hell.

Each summer I can't focus on the divine bands, the heavenly music, or the right path to the pulled-pork taco stand. Why? Because every concert is overrun with lost souls — empty husks who gorge themselves on watery beer, lurch toward the stage as if nobody else is there, and yell "Whooo!!!" for what are clearly roadies tuning the guitars.

Over the years boorish concert-goers have left me disillusioned and angry. Hell is other patrons.

Fortunately, I had a revelation recently that brought me back from the Dark Side of the Moon. Travelling over The Wall and through the Court of the Crimson King, I came upon the Divine Concert Hall, seven levels of concert-themed revenge that let me know there is Justice For All, eventually. Behold the Seven Levels of Concert Hell. (I know there are normally nine rings, but cutbacks.)

First Circle: The Sulkers. Sin: People who sit scowling, arms folded, because their boyfriend or girlfriend had the nerve to grant them free admission to a concert but (sniff) they don't like the band. Punishment: Thrust onto hell's Jumbotron, where they are dumped for all eternity on the "Breakup Cam."

Second Circle: The Spillers. Sin: Concert-goers who slosh beer down your back because they bought a tray of five Coors Light for their buddies in the front row. Punishment: They can order beer, but the plastic cup has a big crack in it.

Third Circle: The Requesters. Sin: Yelling out a request repeatedly despite the band's setlist taped to the stage and a multi-million-dollar light show timed to the music. Punishment: Satan grabs their wrist and whacks their hand against their forehead, saying, "Why don't you stop hitting yourself?" for all eternity.

Fourth Circle: The Talkers. Sin: People who natter like they're providing descriptive video ("HERE THEY COME ... I LOVE THIS SONG! ... SO AWESOME!"). Punishment: Eternity as a mime, in mime hell.

Fifth Circle: The Phoners. Sin: People who endlessly use their phone, especially for selfies while facing away from the stage. Punishment: Drowning in the shallow pool of their own ego while Satan's minions take Instagram photos tagged #YODO.

Sixth Circle: The Blockers. Sin: People who arrive late, then push to the front. Punishment: Access granted to the Pearly Gates, but St. Peter never takes their name because there's a guy in front with a girl on his shoulders.

Seventh Circle: The Singers. Sin: Concert-goers who treat your left ear like it's their shower head, belting out tunes so loud it's like you paid $130 for a pro-am duet. Punishment: Britney Spears without autotune.

That's hell in a nutshell. And I haven't even warned you about the most ironic punishment of all: The least remorseful hell-dwellers must listen to the song Ironic on repeat while a person next to them says, "You know what's *really* ironic is that Ironic isn't *even* ironic!" May God (as portrayed by Alanis Morissette in Dogma) have mercy on your souls.

Plight of the Puffin

An Atlantic puffin checks its surroundings before ducking under the rocks to feed its chicks in a burrow on Eastern Egg Rock, a small island off the coast of Maine. ROBERT F. BUKATY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tourist help sought by scientists to stop puffin starvation

The Audubon Society wants bird lovers to contribute research to a project scientists hope will help save Atlantic puffins from starvation in Maine.

There are about 1,000 pairs of the seabirds, known for their multi-coloured beaks, in Maine.

Audubon says the number of puffin fledging chicks has declined in the last two years, possibly because their key food source, herring and hake, are leaving for cooler waters. While the puffin enjoys healthy numbers in places such as Newfoundland, they are on the threatened species list in Maine.

Audubon maintains three webcams on Seal Island in outer Penobscot Bay, one of the key puffin habitats in Maine. Volunteers are being asked to watch the birds and answer questions about their feeding behaviour.

"(We're) hoping to advance the science as well as entertain the viewers," said Steve Kress of the Audubon Society. "There are some questions that can be better answered through lots of people viewing."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The two-faced bird

Most people only know a puffin when it is "dressed up" for the breeding season and would hardly recognize it in its plainer winter garb.

- After the breeding season, the adult puffin sheds the colourful plates on its bill and around the eyes and moults the feathers on its head and neck.
- The look is so different that people once thought it was a different species.

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metro AR

In this issue, you can find AR enhancements on pages 23 and 24 in Scene and page 42 in Sports.

To see pages from Metro spring to life, simply download or update the Metro News app available from your device's app store and follow these three easy steps:

1. Open the Metro News app on your smartphone or tablet device. Click the AR icon in the top right corner.

2. Hold your device over any image that has the AR logo near it. Make sure you wait for the green scanning bar to read the image!

3. Voilà! You should see the AR in action — like a video, slide show or mobile content experience. You can even move your phone away from the page and interact with the content directly on your device.

metro AR

MetroTube

We still don't know what he says, but he apparently eats GoPros

REBECCA WILLIAMS
rebecca.williams@metronews.ca

From bike helmets to surfboards, the pint-sized GoPro lens seems like the go-to device for those wishing to capture their athletic and adventurous feats. Another feat? Managing to chow down on the camera. One little and adorable fox was brave enough to take on the challenge. And luckily for our viewing pleasure, the camera was still rolling. Not so lucky was the destroyed camera, or its owner. (TheOpenLens/YouTube)

GETTY IMAGES

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Door-to-door artistry

Summerworks. Performance troupe and its audiences will canvas 1,600 homes and offer to pass notes from one neighbour to the next

BACKSTAGE PASS
Ian Gormely
scene@metronews.ca

The Council of Community Conveyors will offer to pass notes between neighbours as part of the Summerworks Performance Festival. CONTRIBUTED

Homeowners rarely take kindly to strangers knocking at their door. Yet a group of Calgary artists hope to cut through the stream of solicitors and religious and political zealots with their latest "production," the Council of Community Conveyors.

"We canvas neighbourhoods, much like census takers," explains Eric Moschopedis, who founded the council in 2012 with Mia Rushton and Sharon Stevens. "We pass messages from one neighbour to the next."

Moschopedis and his colleagues are community-based artists interested in the intersection between community discourse and "things that we did as children, like nicky nicky nine doors.

"We thought, well what happens if we actually stay at the house?"

As part of the Summerworks Performance Festival, Moschopedis and Rushton will train audiences of 30 people to become temporary council members. Brandishing official sashes and forms, they will canvas the neighbourhood around the Theatre Centre, going door to door, offering to deliver messages from one neighbour to another. "We'll be canvassing almost 1,600 houses."

Based on previous experiences in Calgary, Moschopedis predicts that while some messages offer compliments or social invitations, not all the notes are positive.

"The first house we ever did in Calgary ... his response was, 'Sure you can tell my neighbour, and they already know this, that their landlord is an a—hole.' We realized then that this project is really great. It's really going to work."

Moschopedis says the goal is to map a community, like a census. "You look at all this information, you start to get a better sense of what that place looks like," he says.

The council convenes from Aug. 13-17 at the Theatre Centre, 1115 Queen St. W., as part of the Summerworks Performance Festival. Check out summerworks.ca for tickets and details.

Eclectic festival

Summerworks features theatre, music, dance, live art and readings. Here are a few highlights:

- **A Quiet Sip of Coffee:** a docudrama recounting two friends' experience with gay-conversion therapy.
- **Madame Mao:** The life of Jiang Qing, Gang of Four member and wife of Mao Zedong, is dramatized.
- **The Secret Garden of Lido Pimienta:** experimental pop music paired with Gustavo Cerquera Benjumea's artwork and projections.
- **Tragedy: a Tragedy:** a news team covers the apocalypse.

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Ritter's role led to sleepless nights

About Alex. To get into the mindset of a suicidal young man, actor deprived himself of rest and company

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

Jason Ritter, son of the late John Ritter and star of the new film About Alex, doesn't call himself a method actor, but he used some tricks to prepare for his latest role.

"There are certain times when I try to help myself get into a mindset by trying to create circumstances around me that mimic certain feelings," said the 34-year-old actor.

The action in About Alex begins with the drained looking titular character (Ritter), feeling cut off from his closest friends, sending a farewell tweet before attempting suicide.

"I felt like Alex might have spent some sleepless nights, haunted and alone, so I spent a lot of time just wandering around my house. I made myself coffees and tried to stay up all night. Basically not giving my brain a chance to rest. It was just about transferring that over into a more extreme version, helping me get into a mindset of someone who doesn't see any other solution and who wants the pain to end."

The actor, who has a recurring role on the show Parenthood, says, "it would have felt a little bit strange to me if I had gotten a great night sleep, woken up, had a big breakfast and then had to jump into the scene. I guess I don't trust myself enough to be able to jump straight into something that heavy."

The movie takes on a Big Chill vibe as Alex's best friends — played by Park and Rec's Aubrey Plaza, Maggie Grace of Lost, Max Minghella, Non-Stop's Nate Parker and The New Girl's Max Greenfield — gather at an upstate New York home to support him.

Aubrey Plaza and Jason Ritter star in About Alex, which opens this Friday. CONTRIBUTED

"I basically fell in love with every single one of the actors there," says Ritter, who used the remote shooting location as another chance to get into his character's head.

"We all really created friendships on that set but then they would all go away every weekend," he says. "They'd go back to the city and see family and friends or hangout and I would just stay up there and really feel their absence. It was like a microcosm of what it would feel like to be Alex. He feels, even though it's not true, that he's been abandoned by his close friends."

That desertion, in part, comes from social media. Alex's cries for help via twitter "get lost in the sea of tweets," so Ritter hopes people walk away from the film, "feeling like, 'You know who I should call right now? This person.' Call, don't tweet."

Quoted

"I felt like Alex might have spent some sleepless nights, haunted and alone, so I spent a lot of time just wandering around my house."

About Alex star Jason Ritter

THE ART OF THE MODERN COCKTAIL HOUR

RULE 4 There's no better way to kick off the weekend.

THE SETTING The bar, 5:15 p.m. THE COMPANY: The more the merrier. YOUR MOVE: It's Friday. You made it. Buy a round, already. Walk into any great bar right after work on a Friday evening and you can feel the pre-weekend buzz. Blow off some steam with quality cocktails and a well-deserved hang with friends at one of the city's best bars. Need some inspiration? Try one of these amazing Toronto locals.

MILLER ON BAY, 31 Bay Street
With top-notch service and hospitality, this casual haven almost feels like the kind of place where everyone knows your name. The Miller has some of the city's best bar snacks and cocktails, including the incredibly refreshing Shibuya Punch—a minty gin modern classic.

WESLODGE, 480 King Street West
Underneath the taxidermy and cool antique cabinets brimming with bottles of cordials, bitters and shiny antique glassware, are some of the city's best holster-wearing bar-keepers making potent and grown-up cocktails like the Gentleman's Quarterly.

LOBBY BAR, 550 Wellington Street West
Get your drink on at the sleek and contemporary Lobby Bar at the Thompson Hotel. Mingle with the crowd at the packed bar or take in the scene from one of the comfy lounge couches with a smart cocktail like the zesty Sinner and Saint, a perfect finish to the week.

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Giving shape to the heroes in a half shell

Digital tricks. Visual man for Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles film shares his secrets

Over the past two years, inside the high-tech sanctuary of Industrial Light and Magic, the man who built a virtual virgin jungle for the last Indiana Jones movie and conjured 150-foot-tall aliens for War of the Worlds has been confronting his most difficult task yet: creating a digital version of the beloved Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles that could realistically interact on screen with Megan Fox.

On this assignment, Pablo Helman needed more than just turtle power.

"For me, in the 19 years that I've been at ILM, this is one of the most challenging projects I've worked on," the visual effects supervisor said in a recent interview at his office.

"Technologically, it's very difficult to capture someone's performance, put it on a character and make it believable. In this case, we had to design a way to combine performances that were taken at many different times."

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, the live-action reimagining of the 30-year-old comic book franchise in theatres Friday, features a completely computerized version of the four sewer-dwelling superheroes, a take more akin to Gollum from The Lord of the Rings films or Caesar from the recent Planet of the Apes movies than the rubbery renditions from the 1990s live-action Turtles films.

The revitalized reptiles were fashioned at ILM by blending computer-generated imagery with several motion-capture performances by four actors. It's a radical departure from the original '90s film trilogy, when Jim Henson's Creature Shop crafted puppety suits for actors playing the half-shell heroes.

For the reboot, the performers physically portraying each Ninja Turtle donned skintight grey getups and shell-shaped backpacks, while helmets equipped with cameras captured their facial expressions. The actors' bodies were replaced on screen by their counterparts — massive talking turtles who know kung fu — and their facial expressions were grafted onto the Ninja Turtles' green noggins.

Despite the effort to construct Ninja Turtles for the digital age, die-hard fans didn't initially deem the makeover of Leonardo, Michelangelo, Raphael and Donatello totally tubular.

"You're never going to please everybody because what you're fighting is that magical moment when, in this case, someone first discovered the Ninja Turtles," said Helman.

"It's not possible to convince someone that these are the Ninja Turtles they fell in love with 30 years ago. The idea is that you have to take the original intent and make it your own." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Turtle power!

"You're not going to please everybody because what you're fighting is that magical moment when, in this case, someone first discovered the Ninja Turtles."

Visual effects supervisor Pablo Helman on his interpretation of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.

An actor goes through the motions of a Ninja Turtle. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

After some computer effects, it's Turtle Power! THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Flaming fans

Despite the effort to construct Ninja Turtles for the digital age, die-hard fans didn't initially deem the makeover totally tubular. Instead, many were shell-shocked to see in early teasers and trailers that the filmmakers added nostrils and lips to the turtles' faces, a different anatomy than the one from the previous comics, cartoons, toys and films. "This whole gritty, doofy, straight-out-of-Avatar look is not working for the iconic cartoon turtles," Jason Schreier wrote on the blog Kotaku last May. "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles has never exactly been cool — Leonardo and crew were always dorky and cheesy in a loveable sort of way — but they have never had ridiculous zombie nostrils and gaping mouths like this before. It sure looks dumb."

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Megan Fox in her own (uncensored) words

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. Starlet complains journos take her quotes out of context, so here's just a transcript ... draw your own conclusions

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Megan Fox has a bone to pick with the press.

"I like to be open with you guys and I like to be honest.

"I hate being disingenuous," she tells the press while promoting Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, in which she plays journalist April O'Neil.

"But ... so much of what I say gets sensationalized. Even when I'm trying to be straightforward and honest and my comments are innocent, inevitably they get turned into something salacious ...

"You guys should all behave yourselves and be nice when you report on things that I say."

Far be it from us to add to Ms. Fox's concerns, so here, in her own words, are some of the straightforward, honest and innocent things she has to say about Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and her experience playing the other side of the press as April O'Neil.

AUGMENTED REALITY

→ Scan this code with your Metro News app for a video of Fox talking about her TMNT character!

metro AR

→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Megan Fox tries life on the other side of the camera, playing reporter April O'Neil in the new Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles film, which opens on Friday. CONTRIBUTED

On what playing a journalist taught her about journalism...

"I realized that your job is much more tedious than maybe I realized previously. You've really got to keep track of a lot of s—."

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Little Household Tip

Don't ignore that bubbling paint on your wall or ceiling. It could mean a leaky pipe.

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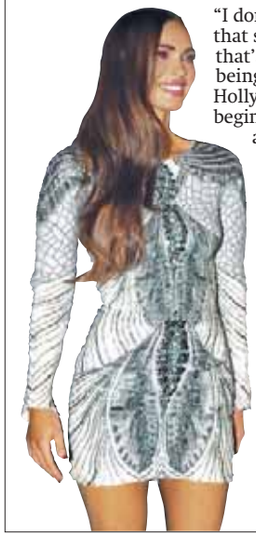
TD

On acting opposite CGI characters...

"When we were doing Transformers, Shia and I were sort of just screaming things at the sky. We had no references at all at that point — because how can you? I mean, you're dealing with, like, 30-foot robots."

On playing scantily clad characters...



"I don't mind doing that stuff. I think that's been a part of being an actress in Hollywood since the beginning. I don't feel ashamed or like I can't be taken seriously while also wearing a tank top. And if you don't take me seriously while I'm wearing a tank top, that's your f—ing problem, not mine."

On the state of journalism...

"I'm not trying to tell you guys that you're becoming obsolete, but kind of everyone with an iPhone is a journalist in their own way now — especially because we live in a tabloid culture. When you watch CNN and they're giving you news based on tweets that people are sending out, you realize that society is really changing. The collective public have a really big voice now that they didn't previously have, and they're influencing the trajectory of how we are socially and with one another. I don't know, I'm going to start getting metaphysical with you."

On dealing with haters online...

"Let me tell you something about those people. How much money did Transformers 4 make? Exactly. Those people can complain, (but) they all go to the theatre as soon as the movie's coming out. They're going to love it, and if they don't love it they can f— off, and that's the end of that."

Charlotte Le Bon may not be able to cook, but she sure acts like she can

The Hundred-Foot Journey. Quebec-born actress has worked in a restaurant, but prefers to be on the eating end of the table

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

AUGMENTED REALITY

→ Helen Mirren tries to lay down the law. Scan this photo with your Metro News app to see the clip!

metro AR → See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Charlotte Le Bon and Helen Mirren play celebrated chefs in The Hundred-Foot Journey, which opens this Friday. CONTRIBUTED

Charlotte Le Bon, the Paris-based, Quebec-born star of The Hundred-Foot Journey was in Toronto recently to do a round of interviews to promote the movie.

"How's the day going for you so far?" asked your intrepid reporter.

"Amazing! I'm so happy answering the same questions over and over again. Be creative," she says with a laugh.

So the standard, "How is it working with Helen Mirren?" is off the table.

Ditto questions about producers Oprah and Steven Spielberg, although later she offers up that the idea of working with those powerhouses was enticing.

"When somebody calls you to say Steven Spielberg thinks you're the one, you don't go, 'I'm going to think about it, read the script a couple of times and maybe I'll call him back.' It's super overwhelming and exciting."

In the film, she plays Marguerite, sous-chef to chef Madame Mallory (Mirren) in Mallory's Michelin-starred French restaurant. When an Indian family, and their prodigiously talented chef (Manish Dayal) opens a restaurant just one hundred feet across the street, rivalry and romance blossom between the two young kitchen stars.

Have you ever worked in a restaurant?, I enquire.

"You're the first journalist to ask that!" she says. "Yay! I worked in a sushi restaurant as a busgirl, just setting the tables and stuff like that. I realized how difficult working in a restaurant is. You have to be some kind of actor to be a good waiter because you're always doing small talk and usually you don't care about the people in front of you, but you have to act like you mean it.

"It's a very difficult job and when you're a chef it is over-the-top difficult. That's why you have to be a control freak or a dictator to have a good restaurant and win Michelin stars."

The 27-year-old vegetarian says she spent time in an upscale restaurant in Paris, "to learn how to move in the kitchen and how to act like a chef," but don't expect to see the impressive cooking talent she displays in the movie in her own kitchen.

"I'm really lazy when it comes to food," she says. "I have experience in food in the way that I really enjoy eating people's food," she says. "I have no skills whatsoever."

She prefers eating out because, "you don't have to do the dishes, you can choose whatever you want and you don't have to go out grocery shopping."

Quoted

"I'm really lazy when it comes to food. I have experience in food in the way I really enjoy eating people's food."
Charlotte Le Bon

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TD

Film

Jennifer Connelly
AFP

Connelly to star in American Pastoral

Jennifer Connelly has joined the cast of American Pastoral, an adaptation of Philip Roth's Pulitzer-winning novel, according to The Wrap.

Australian filmmaker Phillip Noyce will helm the feature, in which Connelly will co-star opposite Ewan McGregor. Production is slated to begin in March 2015.

Part of Roth's American Trilogy, American Pastoral examines the seemingly perfect life of Seymour Levov, a successful New Jersey businessman referred to as the Swede by his former classmate Nathan Zuckerman, the novel's narrator.

The protagonist's idyllic existence begins to fall apart when his 16-year-old daughter rebels by protesting the Vietnam War and runs away after committing an act of terrorism that ends up taking someone's life.

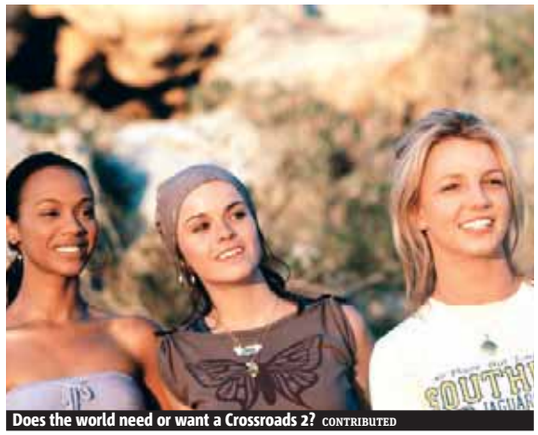
McGregor will play Levov, while Connelly will play his wife, Dawn, a former beauty queen. AFP

Crossroads. Should Brit do a comeback sequel?

Is there a Crossroads sequel in the works?

If you have been dreaming of another Crossroads movie since 2002, well, it seems Britney Spears has, too. The movie, in which she goes on a road trip with a hot guy and two of her best friends, has been on the singer's mind. She recently tweeted Crossroads co-star Zoe Saldana (Yep, she was in it.): "@zoesaldana Truly the sweetest. thx 4 the kind words. Nothing but great memories of working w u. Crossroads pt 2? ;)

OK, so this is probably just the case of one celebrity sharing her love for her friend. And even so, what would Crossroads 2 entail? It certainly couldn't have the same coming-of-age hook as the original. Maybe a road trip on finding yourself after you reach rock bottom but are climbing your way to the top again? Would that work? EMILY LAURENCE/MWN



Does the world need or want a Crossroads 2? CONTRIBUTED

Criminal. Ryan Reynolds teams up with Kevin Costner in sci-fi thriller

Ryan Reynolds has just joined the cast of Ariel Vromen's crime thriller, Criminal, which also features Kevin Costner, Gary Oldman and Tommy Lee Jones, according to Variety and Entertainment Weekly.

To be helmed by the screenwriter and director of The Iceman, Criminal stars Costner as a dangerous convict whose brain and memories are replaced by those of a dead CIA agent. The experimental operation is meant to allow an important mission to be completed.

While details on Reynolds' role remain under wraps, Oldman will play a CIA boss and Jones will play a doctor.
AFP

Johnny Depp has started work on the next installment of Alice in Wonderland. AFP

Burton takes another leap through the looking glass

Sequel. Alice in Wonderland crew reunites to kick off work on filming

Production begins this week on the highly anticipated sequel to Tim Burton's blockbuster reinvention of Alice in Wonderland — with the same A-list cast as the 2010 Oscar-winning film.

Burton is co-producing but not directing Alice in Wonderland: Through the Looking Glass, in which Johnny Depp, Anne Hathaway, Helena Bonham Carter and Mia Wasikowska (Alice) will all reprise their roles. Joining the cast is British comedian Sacha Baron Cohen, who has the difficult task of bringing Time to the big screen. AFP

Cost

The 2010 film, which won two Oscars for best costume design and best art direction, cost a whopping $200 million to make, according to industry website IMDB. But it raked in an estimated $1 billion worldwide.

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The films that faith built

From Bibles to big bucks. Two God-loving brothers have tapped into a faithful market and are flying high on their success

Alex, left, and Stephen Kendrick's films have made $80 million but cost less than $4 million combined. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It's the Hollywood ending every studio wants: Low-cost production and high returns at the box office.

Filmmakers Alex and Stephen Kendrick seem to have the formula down — grossing nearly $80 million on four films made for less than $4 million combined. Only thing is, the Kendrick brothers work far from Hollywood and outside the world of Christian-themed cinema, many have never heard of their films.

That could change.

Increasingly, major studios appear to be taking a leap for faith-based audiences with biblical epics such as Noah starring Russell Crowe, the planned December release of Exodus and a remake of Ben-Hur for early 2016. At one point in April, there were four faith-based movies in the Top 20 at the box office, including Heaven Is for Real, about a four-year-old boy's account of his trip to heaven. It has grossed more than $99 million on a production budget of $12 million by Sony Pictures.

"Hollywood has taken note," said DeVon Franklin, former Sony senior vice-president of production, who oversaw Heaven Is for Real.

The Kendrick brothers — who just wrapped up filming their fifth project — are making movies that could see wider release as distributors pay attention to the box office trends in the traditional Bible Belt and beyond.

Their latest film, which has yet to have a title, centres on a family realizing the power of prayer. "The point is not racing to see how many movies we can produce," said Alex Kendrick, in a telephone interview from Charlotte, N.C. "The point is to take the time, in prayer and research, to make a solid film and get the most ministry out of it before moving to the next one."

The Kendricks began with a tiny production company with their pastor at Sherwood Baptist, but decided to strike out on their own with their fifth film. The brothers say the separation was amicable and necessary for them to grow as filmmakers and recruit actors and crew nationwide.

In previous movies, the brothers mostly used volunteers from their church, though one of their more popular movies — Fireproof — did include Kirk Cameron, a veteran actor memorably known starting in the '80s for his youthful role in a popular TV sitcom, Growing Pains.

"The people we've gotten to meet who have expertise in areas where we have needed help have come to the table," said Stephen Kendrick. "And we're growing as filmmakers."

They're also giving back. The brothers are using the fruits of their success to help up-and-coming filmmakers with projects, as well as mentor a younger generation of hopefuls. During their recent filming, they brought in about 20 interns from different universities who worked under professionals involved in the making of the film.

"We believe every generation needs to be pouring into and investing in the next generation," Stephen Kendrick said. "Hopefully, they'll be able to stand on our shoulders one day and make even better movies."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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TD

Quoted

"The point is to take the time, in prayer and research, to make a solid film and get the most ministry out of it..."

Filmmaker Alex Kendrick on his ethos

Hollywood

Nicolas Cage AFP

Nic Cage left behind after the Rapture

Based on the bestselling novel by Tim Lahaye and Jerry B. Jenkins, Left Behind focuses on a cast of characters who have survived the Rapture, the instantaneous disappearance of millions of people worldwide. Yahoo! Movies has just released the trailer.

For some Christians, the Rapture is thought to be a future event in which true believers will be snatched up to heaven to meet Christ, while the rest of humanity remains on Earth to face a series of tribulations.

An action thriller with strong religious undertones, Left Behind is directed by former stuntman Vic Armstrong, with a script by Paul Lalonde and John Patus. First published in 1995, the book was already adapted for the screen once before, in 2001, with a direct-to-video production directed by Vic Sarin and featuring Kirk Cameron. AFP

Buddy film brought two actors closer together

Land Ho! Paul Eenhoorn's reserved nature a complement to the boisterous Earl Lynn Nelson

The American independent comedy Land Ho! combines two very sturdy genres: the buddy film and the road movie.

Filmed on location in Iceland, it tells the two story of two retired ex-brothers-in-law who fly to the Nordic paradise to help the latter get over the breakup of his marriage; once there, the sexagenarian pair share in the chilly beauty of the local scenery despite the big differences in their personalities.

In the film, Colin (Paul Eenhoorn) is shy and reserved and Australian while Mitch (Earl Lynn Nelson) is loud, boisterous and American — a dynamic that's largely derived from their real life.

"I have a tendency to stay within myself on the set," explains Eenhoorn, a skilled veteran actor who got excellent reviews last year for the acclaimed drama This is Martin Bonner.

"What I look for in (my co-stars) is a lack of vanity, and openness and willingness to give, and (Earl Lynn) was perfect."

To say that Nelson is open is an understatement. The Kentucky native, who worked for decades as a surgeon before being cast in small parts by his first cousin's daughter Martha Stephens (the co-director of Land Ho! with Aaron Katz) sounds pretty much identical in person to his gregarious onscreen character.

"I've never met a stranger," he says.

"My personality in real life is overpowering. It's my size, and it's my voice, which is so deep. It goes through concrete walls. I want to push people to have a good time and enjoy themselves."

Nelson admits that his more experienced co-star bailed him out on a few occasions on set, and both men agree that their friendship has gotten stronger since the cameras stopped rolling — partly because they can look back on the art-imitates-life aspect of shooting a movie about tourism on the fly in a foreign country.

"We were in hotels and motels that people wouldn't be caught dead in," he laughs. ADAM NAYMAN/METRO

Land Ho! opens this Friday. CONTRIBUTED

Meet a modern model for change

Thriving Miss Mercado. Fashion's got a new face — a woman not afraid to break down the industry norms.

RACHEL LEE
Metro World News

Fashion editor and longtime style blogger Jillian Mercado has been wheelchair-bound since she was 12, but that didn't stop her from making her foray into modelling earlier this year with a widely praised Diesel campaign.

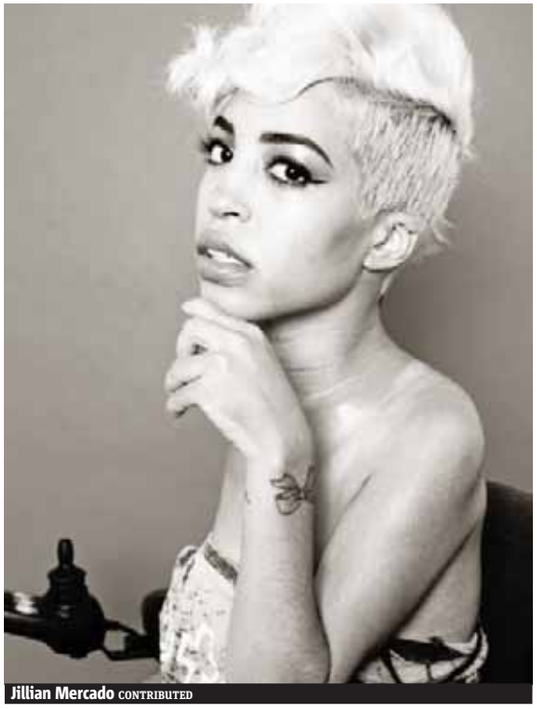
More recently, Mercado officially signed with Red Model Management and stars in this year's Nordstrom summer catalogue. We got her take on the shifting face of fashion, and what it's like being a different type of model.

Models who don't fall into the normal type, like plus-sized, minority and disabled models like yourself have gotten more attention lately. Do you feel like the fashion industry will continue in this direction?
There's always been slight changes, but I don't think it's been full force, ever ... we've all been waiting for other people to change it, and it doesn't happen. I feel like whoever has been in the spotlight for being different in the industry, we've all been sick of it, and we're forcing it to become more mainstream. Less of a "Wow" factor, just a normal thing, so hopefully down the road we can just be models and not "disabled models."

How do you feel about being called the face of disabled modelling?
It's so weird when people say I'm the "face of," say, Nordstrom, because I usually know other people who are the "face of," and I'm like, "Oh my God, that's so cool, they're the face of," but now it's like, "Oh wow, now I'm the face of, this is weird ..." But it's awesome! I'm a really determined person, and I don't want people to forget – not necessarily me, but the general idea that there needs to be more diversity in the industry. I hope that someone else gets a spark in their head and goes, "I really wanna be a model and I'm gonna do anything possible to do it." But it's really awesome, being the first, kinda.

You've held a lot of other positions in the fashion world, but is modelling ultimately what you wanted to do?
Well, it's funny because I always say it was pure luck and I just fell into it, but in the back of my mind, I've always wanted to be a model. But I guess since society really messed up our heads about what's normal or OK, I told myself that that's never gonna happen, and I was just fine with it, I guess. Until I got the opportunity, and then I was like, "No no, that is NOT OK, I should have never thought that way."

What is your dream modeling gig?
Oh my god, let me think about it good, just in case somebody reads it … Something like, well, Alexander McQueen, if he were alive, that would be ultimately the dream … I wanna say Chanel, but I don't wanna say Chanel. So I'm gonna say … oh man … Marc Jacobs would be kind of awesome. Or Tom Ford! Go big or go home, you know? But any of those would be amazing.



Jillian Mercado CONTRIBUTED

Industry inspiration

"I hope that someone else gets a spark in their head and goes, 'I really wanna be a model and I'm gonna do anything possible to do it.'"
Jillian Mercado

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John Travolta ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Travolta's private pilot planning tell-all book about 'our little secret'

A man who claims to have been John Travolta's boyfriend for six years is planning to publish a tell-all book about the relationship, the National Enquirer reports.

"I'd stay in the room next to John in luxury hotels," Greg Gotterba, who acted as Travolta's private pilot at the time, tells the tabloid. "Sometimes he'd bring women along as beards. But he would ask me to join him in his suite and we'd spend the nights together. It was our little secret."

Gotterba says his relationship with Travolta ended shortly before the star married Kelly Preston.

"I feel sorry for Kelly. She's a lovely person," he adds. "She's in the middle of all this, and it's unfair to her."

No fourth Affleck on way, despite Garner's comfy garb

To be fair, Jennifer Garner has spent a good chunk of the last decade pregnant, so it's understandable that some tabloids would jump to the conclusion that she and Ben Affleck are expecting once again just because she was spotted wearing a number of loose-fitting tops recently. Despite claims by OK! and Star that there's a fourth Affleck child on the way, Garner's rep insists that the reports are "not true."

Jennifer Garner

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

I shoulda stuck with movies, O.C. star Barton tells U.K. paper

NED EHRBAR
Metro in Hollywood

Guys, Mischa Barton has some regrets — namely taking the role of Marissa Cooper on The O.C.

In hindsight, Barton tells Metro U.K. that she should "probably not" have accepted the role that made her famous.

"It's something I came so close to not doing. I had a really great thing with film. People say, be grateful for what you have, but it certainly (was) not the kind of thing I was expecting it to be. I've kind of seen it all," she says, punctuating her statement, I can only imagine, with a weary sigh and a drag on a Gitanes.

Two more surprising details emerge from this interview: One, Barton is only 28 years old, and two, she has a tenuous grasp of the English language.

Case in point: "I just like to be seen for the hard-working actress that I am and not for a bunch of extraneous press. In general people are super-quick to harbour on the gossipy stuff and less on how much work goes into it," she says. "It's really tough when you are young in this business. People blow a lot of hot air at you."

I … OK.

Charlie Sheen

Charlie's off the market according to his new ring

Charlie Sheen's fiancée, porn star Brett Rossi, clearly likes it, because she put a ring on it.

Sources tell Radar Online that Sheen has been wearing a "man's engagement ring" at Rossi's insistence. I'm usually against male jewelry on principle, but I can understand her concern. This is Charlie Sheen, after all.

"Brett forced Charlie to wear the wedding band, which he is wearing as an engagement ring," a source says.

"Charlie continues to hang around with other women, which infuriates Brett. It's disrespectful to their relationship, and Brett wants to make it clear that Charlie is off the market."

Whether it's to make it clear to the other women or to Sheen himself, I'm not sure.

Twitter

@ElizabethHurley
I confess I'd score a big, fat zero in any chemistry or physics test. Have agreed to sit in on my son's holiday tuition classes. Horror.

@tyrabanks
Sometimes u gotta sit back & reflect on the many great things that have come ur way. Thx @VictoriasSecret for that early career luv.

@AlbertBrooks
Just changed all my passwords to 043w590z9awo2391poiw93. Let the Russians figure that one out!

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He wore an itsy bitsy teenie weenie pair of swim trunks

Significant shrinkage. Today's poolside loungers are leaving little to the imagination

RICHARD PECKETT
Metro World News

This season, the most fashionable men come in small swimwear packages. Chaps are dropping the baggy board shorts in favour of a snugger look. British high street retailer Debenhams has seen sales of tiny trunks rise by 242 per cent — a stark contrast to the women's trend for conservative '50s-style costumes.

Clearly men are taking a tip from the 'bare it all' male celebrities like David Beckham, David Gandy, and even Giorgio Armani.

If you can't beat 'em, throw on a pair of micro swim shorts.

Dan Ward Printed Swim Shorts, $220. MRPORTER.COM

ASOS Swim Trunks, $19.35. ASOS.COM

Intymen Stripes Swim Bikini, $40.96. INTYMEN.COM

Orlebar Brown Swim Shorts, $205. MRPORTER.COM

Are you prepared to make a splash in something a little less subtle? ISTOCK

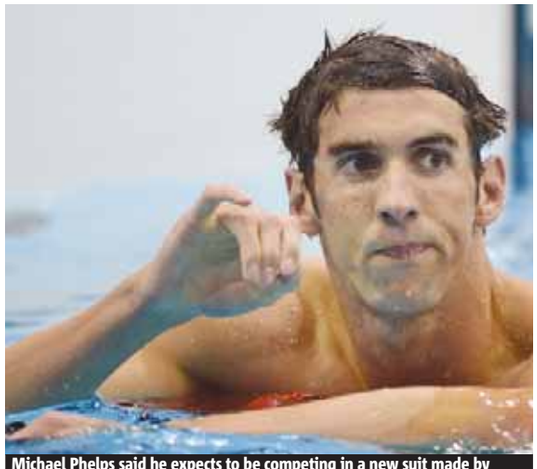
Gold medal gear. Phelps teams with Aqua Sphere to develop suit line

Olympic swimming great Michael Phelps, on a comeback that could take him to the Rio Games, is teaming up with a swimwear manufacturer to develop a line of competitive swimming equipment.

Phelps launched his comeback in April after a 20-month retirement as a free agent after his deal with longtime sponsor Speedo expired at the end of 2013.

On Tuesday, as Phelps geared up for Wednesday's start of the US championships in Irvine, Calif., Aqua Sphere announced that the 18-time Olympic gold medalist and coach Bob Bowman had signed on help develop new products for the company.

It currently designs and manufactures swimwear, wetsuits, eyewear, and accessories for triathletes, open-water, and fitness swimmers. AFP



Michael Phelps said he expects to be competing in a new suit made by Aqua Sphere next January. AFP / CHRISTOPHE SIMON

Trends Report

Every season inspires hair trends, from highlights to lowlights and even Splashlights, but why not take it one step further and go for a more eye-catching hair change-up? Go to Trends Report to check out how singer Kesha has been transforming her tresses all summer for some inspiration.

- **Online.** Follow Irene on Twitter at @MetroIreneK or Instagram: kuanirene; metronews.ca/voices/trends-report

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Age: 26

Occupation: Columnist, Maclean's Magazine

What she's wearing:

Stussy hat, vintage jean jacket, Zara shirt, cheap Monday jeans, Matisse shoes, Tom Ford sunglasses, and Chanel purse.

Her inspiration:
"Stylist Elise Troister, Rihanna and my Bubbie."

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Legal Matters

Securing a daughter's loan

Our daughter has fairly recently met a young man and they are planning on purchasing a house together. She has requested that we provide her with the money for a down payment which we have previously done for her older brother. Unfortunately, the relationship that our son was in broke down after the purchase of the home and the girlfriend demanded a payout in order to move out. This resulted in half of our down payment going to the former girlfriend. We want to protect our daughter and at the same time want to be fair and provide her with the same advantage of getting a head start in the housing market. Is there any way we can protect our daughter and her loan?

LEGAL MATTERS
Jeffrey Cowan
home@metronews.ca

Your situation is fairly common, with parents giving or loaning funds to get their kids into the housing market. The easiest way to protect the money you are advancing your child is to put a second mortgage on the property after closing. This will mean that any departing spouse or partner will have to make sure that the loan gets paid back from any proceeds of the disposition of the property.

One thing to be careful of though. Sometimes when banks loan money for a mortgage they stipulate that there be no secondary financing on the property. If this is the case, you will not be able to register a secured interest against the property and will have to be satisfied with a signed promissory note. Certainly, there should definitely be some form of written security because so many relationships do not last all that long.

Follow Jeff Cowan on Twitter @Cowan_Law or on the website cowanlaw.ca, or email him at jeff@cowanlaw.ca.

Opening new spaces, greener places

Condo happenings. A roundup of recent events

CONDO TRENDS
Duncan McAllister
life@metronews.ca

POPS goes private and public partnership

Members of the community gathered at the grounds of Concord CityPlace on July 31 to unveil the city's first plaque identifying a privately owned, publicly accessible space or POPS. This space is one of many in Toronto owned by private organizations but available for public use.

The plaque acknowledges a partnership between CityPlace developer Concord Adex and the City of Toronto to provide the community with creative places to enhance urban life. The Concord Adex site also houses iconic public art such as Approaching Red. MP Adam Vaughan and city councillors Josh Matlow and Ceta Ramkhalawansingh were on hand for the unveiling, as well as Toronto urban design manager James Parakh and Concord VP Gabriel Leung.

Councillor Josh Matlow, left, and MP Adam Vaughan look on as the city's first plaque identifying a privately owned, publicly accessible space (POPS) is unveiled at Concord CityPlace July 31. JEN YEAMAN

Representatives of the Federation of Rental-housing Providers of Ontario, The City of Toronto and WJ Properties attend the launch of the first-ever multi-residential industry sustainability program in Flemingdon Park. CONTRIBUTED

Greener apartment living

The Federation of Rental-Housing Providers of Ontario's certified rental building program is now greener and more environmentally friendly with the introduction of its new environmental operating standards in Toronto. To celebrate this sustainability milestone, residents joined Ward 26 councillor John Parker and FRPO executives on July 24 at WJ Properties' highrise building at 7 St. Dennis Dr., to reinforce their commitment to greener apartment living.

The certification assures residents that their apartment home is in the care of property managers committed to environmental activities that support effective energy consumption management and waste management recycling practices.

"I am very impressed with the certified rental building program. Certification helps renters in a community have confidence in the buildings in which they live," said Councillor Parker.

New environmental standards

"Certification helps renters ... have confidence in the buildings in which they live."
Ward 26 councillor John Parker

Coming to Roncy Village

The boutique west-end condo 383 Sorauren has just closed its sales office doors to make way for ground-breaking and construction. The contemporary midrise development, a joint project spearheaded by Gairloch Developments and Centre Stone Developments, is located in the heart of Roncesvalles Village. The new presentation centre will relocate to nearby 309 Roncesvalles on Aug. 8. The new sales gallery promises to be visually striking, reflecting the culture and flavour of the Roncy neighbourhood.

"We've enjoyed hosting and previewing 383 Sorauren on the building's site so purchasers could get a taste of life on this vibrant street," says Bill Gardner of Gairloch Developments. "Now we have an opportunity to bring a bit of 383 Sorauren to bustling Roncesvalles Avenue. We're excited to welcome visitors to this new location while immersing ourselves into the local business community."

Suites range from 538 to 1,380 square feet, and prices start at $309,990.

383 Sorauren, a new boutique condo development in Toronto's west end, is ready to break ground this week. CONTRIBUTED

Angus Glen

Building more than homes

BRYAN TUCKEY
President and CEO of the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) can be found at twitter.com/bildgta, facebook.com/bildgta, and bildblogs.ca.

Our members are committed to building quality, residential, commercial and retail properties so that GTA residents can work, play and shop close to where they live.

"It all goes back to the planning," explains Kylemore Communities president Patrick O'Hanlon. "Everyone can have these dreams of what a perfect community is, but part of your vision has to take in the realities of what your surroundings are."

Patrick is one of three visionaries behind Angus Glen — one of the most unique communities in the GTA. The development, which started out as a golf course in Markham back in 1997, combines new homes and condominiums with a world-renowned golf course that has hosted two Canadian Opens, a community centre and retail space.

Nearly two decades later, the community continues to evolve.

Last fall, Angus Glen celebrated the start of construction on a boutique, resort-style condominium called The 6th. It comprises two mid-rise buildings that overlook the golf course.

In June 2011, Kylemore completed a custom-designed high-end grocery store called The Village Grocer. Later that year, the developer opened the Shoppes of Angus Glen — a premium retail and commercial space that combined banking, dining, shopping and even a private Montessori School.

In 2013 BILD recognized Angus Glen with the Places to Grow Community of the Year Award.

"That was something we were so proud of, to be recognized not only from our fellow builders but from the province," Patrick said. "That was sort of a recognition of 17 years of hard work… it said we did something for the province to be proud of."

What's hot on the condo market

DUNCAN MCALLISTER

1. Scarborough

Sales Event: ME Living condos in Scarborough. Stilt walkers, gourmet gelato and model suite tour. Aug. 9 from 12 to 4 p.m. Check out the presentation centre at 1151 Markham Rd.

CONTACT: 416-430-0003, MELIVING.CA

2. Yorkville

Open House: Yorkville boutique sub-penthouse at The Dakota. One plus one bedroom and one bathroom. Make your way to 225 Davenport Rd., Aug. 9 from 2 to 4 p.m.

CONTACT: 416-489-2121

3. West Don Lands

Grand Opening: Canary District condos in the West Don Lands. Visit the on-site presentation centre at 398 Front St. E., at Cherry Street. August 9 at 12 p.m.

CONTACT: 416-603-7576, CANARYDISTRICT.COM

4. Etobicoke

Open House: Spectacular waterfront condo with two plus one bedrooms and two bathrooms. Make your way to 2121 Lake Shore Blvd. W. near the Humber River. August 9 and 10 from 2 to 4 p.m.

CONTACT: 416-465-4545

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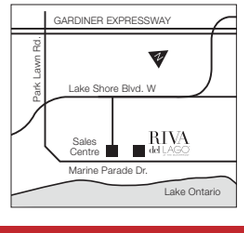

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Stirrup lamp strikes a cord once again

British lighting designer Original BTC is celebrating the 20-year anniversary of its signature Stirrup lamp with two new designs.

Inspired by the searchlight on the back of a toy truck, the Stirrup collection channels industrial chic.

To mark the anniversary, the sturdy floor light has been slimmed down and the size of the wall light reduced and equipped with a more flexible suspension.

Each piece is available in polished or painted aluminum and features the brand's signature wrapped cotton cable. Both the wall and the floor light have the option of a viewfinder in frosted glass to hide the bulb from sight. AFP

Stirrup by British lighting designer Original BTC. ORIGINAL BTC

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What's the wood coming to?

Timeless beauty. Getting creative with wood can add interest to walls, ceilings, floors and exteriors

Working with wood comes naturally to New York interior designer Dan Faires. He grew up in an old farmhouse and has been developing his carpentry skills for much of his life.

So in any house or apartment he occupies, he finds creative ways to decorate with this natural material. To rehab an apartment in Arkansas recently, he covered the dark pine floor with coats of glossy white paint, instantly brightening the room and making it seem larger.

But Faires says many homeowners have no experience working with wood, so they don't realize how easy it is to make a home more beautiful by improving the existing wood or creatively adding new wood to walls, floors and even ceilings.

Designer Brian Patrick Flynn, creator of the Flynnside Out Productions design blog, agrees.

"While different materials come and go with trends, wood is here to stay. Whether it's for a home's exterior, bedroom walls or for adding shade to your yard or deck, wood is an investment that will never go out of style."

Here, Faires, Flynn and Betsy Burnham of the Los Angeles-based Burnham Design share their favourite ways to decorate with wood.

Feature walls

"Creating interior feature walls with soft woods is an amazing way to add a focal point to a room otherwise considered a 'basic drywall box,"' Flynn says.

You can add decorative wood to a wall from floor to ceiling, Burnham says, or just part of the way up. Options include tongue-and-groove panels, bead board or traditional board and batten.

No matter what you choose, a decorative layer of wood is "so much more interesting than drywall and paint," Burnham says. "It adds texture and interest and timelessness."

Living room or bedroom walls are great candidates, but you can also use this technique to bring architectural interest to an alcove or corner that's tough to decorate with art, Faires says. Or cover the walls of a small bathroom to remodel it inexpensively.

Another great spot to add wood: "Interior entryways, especially those in new construction homes, are a perfect fit for a wainscotting update, as it can make an entryway feel much more grand, add graphic impact, break up the monotony of drywall and also ensure a classic look," says Flynn. "Wainscotting is probably one of the most traditional ways to use wood indoors, and it can be used impactfully in any room."

A custom-designed, chinoiserie-inspired fretwork pattern illustrates how you can change a room or stairwell by adding decorative wood overlays to a plain wall. GREY CRAWFORD/ BETSY BURNHAM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A facade of cedar planks installed vertically make this basic mid-century ranch appear taller. SARAH DORIO/WOOD, NATURALLY, WOODNATURALLY.COM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Little Household Tip

When positioning furniture, make sure you're not blocking any air vents.

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TD

Dramatic touches

We expect to see wood on floors and walls, but ceilings are also a great place to add it.

You can get creative with patterns, arranging panels of wood in a chevron or other shape, rather than horizontally or vertically.

"Overall, I say stick with a graphic pattern that's large enough to read without becoming too busy," Flynn says. "Diamond patterns are my favourite since they're classic and work with many different styles of decor and architecture."

And you can experiment with colour. Wood ceilings can be painted the same shade as the walls for a sophisticated look or in a contrasting colour.

If you're really ambitious, add decorative wood to a ceiling or wall in a pattern you design yourself.

"I've drawn designs for full walls and had them built in wood, like raised moulding that gives the entire wall a pattern," Burnham says. She has undertaken complicated chinoiserie patterns, but you can plan a simpler pattern and ask a carpenter to cut and install the pieces.

Or consider a painted design. It takes time and patience, but with a roll of painters' tape and several shades of paint, you can create your own painted pattern on a ceiling or wood floor.

Which woods to use

Although we often hear the term "hardwood floors," much of the wood used decoratively in homes is technically softwood. These include cedar, pine, fir and cypress.

- "Pine is an excellent choice as it takes both stain and paint well," Flynn says. "Plus, it's one of the most affordable and readily available species out there."
- Reclaimed wood salvaged from old buildings and barns is popular, but it's expensive and hard to find, Faires says. If you like the look of aged, distressed wood, take new planks of cedar or pine and stain them with a grey wash, Faires says.

Customized colours

If you don't see the stain you want at the home improvement store, find one that's close and "talk to the paint guy," Faires says. "They actually can create a lot of washes with water-based stains."

Or bring a paint swatch and ask to have that colour created as a water-based stain.

If you want to try creating a stain yourself, "heavily dilute paint with water," Faires says, "which is kind of the old school way of doing it."

Flynn recommends choosing a stain that is "dark enough to add a touch of sophistication, but light enough that the grain of the wood is properly showcased." Dark walnut and pecan finishes are his favourites.

Outdoor beauty

Don't forget about wood outside. Decorative wood can add curb appeal to your home, Flynn says.

To update the exterior of a modern house, he recommends adding architectural interest with stained softwoods like pine. "This is an excellent way to introduce a softer material to a home otherwise outfitted with heavy, hard materials such as brick or stucco," he says. "My favourite trick is to install it vertically rather than horizontally to instantly add the illusion of more height to an otherwise small or average-size house."

Consider wood for privacy in your yard, too.

"Wood lattice is a lifesaver for homes which sit close to one another," Flynn says. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cedar planks installed in a geometric pattern add texture and pattern to a bedroom wall. SARAH DORIO/WOOD, NATURALLY, WOODNATURALLY.COM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Suite digs for your dog

Tail wagger. Builder designs houses with luxe rooms that cater to pampered pets

These homes are set apart by their amenities — for dogs.

Standard Pacific Homes is building and selling homes in 27 developments from Florida to California and is believed to be the first to offer a pet suite as an option in every one.

Standard Pacific, based in Irvine, Calif. decided to offer pet suites after conducting livability studies with homeowners. Pets were a constant theme, said Jeffrey Lake, vice-president and national director of architecture for Standard Pacific.

Pet suite options include automated feeders, and cabinets for toys, treats and food.

The American Pet Products Association reports that 68 per cent of Americans own pets and contribute to an industry worth more than $55 billion annually.

Real estate officials say building homes designed to cater to pets is a new concept, but that remodels for pet owners have been available for some time.

Adam Cowherd Construction in Ozark, Mo., installs pet-friendly additions to homes. Cowherd said he recently finished a job where there was an open shelf on the end of a kitchen island to hold pet bowls.

"Owners want it uniquely functional, very contemporary and something that catches the eye," Cowherd said.

However, only once in the last 10 years has he been asked to build a whole room for a pet, he added.

Her name was Lola

"We don't have to use the kitchen sink to wash yucky stuff anymore."

Melanie Dean who lives with her family near Dallas in a Standard Pacific home with a pet package for their dog, Lola, reflects on how the pet room has made life easier.

Melanie Dean lives with her family near Dallas in a Standard Pacific home with a pet package for their dog, Lola.

Lola's room "makes life much easier," Dean said. "We don't have to use the kitchen sink to wash yucky stuff anymore."

Standard Pacific Homes' newest community, called Avignon at Blackstone in Brea, about 25 miles south of Los Angeles, features homes that start at $710,000. The pet spa option adds $35,000 to the price, Lake said.

Only the largest suite is available in Brea, but in some of the other communities, there are smaller sizes and prices, starting at 60 square feet for $8,000, he said.

Those looking to sell their homes may find their pet additions to be a benefit.

Laundry rooms and mud rooms toward the back of homes are popular, said Amy Bohutinsky, chief marketing officer at Chicago-based Zillow. Pet washrooms can also be used as multipurpose mud rooms, which may attract buyers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It's enough to give you paws

$35K

The pet spa option adds $35,000 to the price of Standard Pacific Homes' newest community, called Avignon at Blackstone in Brea, about 25 miles south of Los Angeles, that features homes starting at $710,000 US.

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Puppy love

"Devotion to pets is second to none. They are family."

Jeffrey Lake, VP and national director of architecture for Standard Pacific Homes

Standard Pacific's pet paradise package includes a step-in wash station.

Putting on the dog

The suite is a 170-square-foot pet paradise with:

- A step-in wash station, handheld sprayer and leash lead
- Tile walls and floors
- A designated drying area with a commercial-sized pet dryer
- A water station
- Automated feeders
- A large bunk-style bed
- Cabinets for toys, treats and food
- A stackable washer and dryer
- A French door that opens to a puppy run
- A flat-screen television set

Inside a Standard Pacific Home dog-friendly pet suite. ALL PHOTOS ANTHONY GOMEZ/A.G. PHOTOGRAPHY/STANDARD PACIFIC HOMES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No pet? Why not adopt one

During some of the model grand openings several potential buyers brought their dogs to look at the homes, said Danielle Tocco, the company's director of communications.

- Around 70 per cent of those looking for a home have pets, said Mollie Carmichael, principal at the John Burns Real Estate Consulting firm in Irvine.
- Pet adoptions were also held at some model grand openings, she said, just in case somebody didn't have a dog but wanted one.
- For cat owners, things can be rearranged and swapped out, like a scratching post for the dryer. And if no one is using the bath, it can be used for sporting equipment, like golf clubs.

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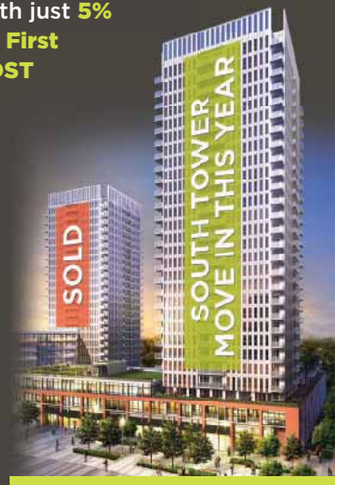

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Art deco luxe in Hamilton

The lobby of the Residences of Royal Connaught in Hamilton. CONTRIBUTED

Meet the condo

- **What.** The Residences of Royal Connaught
- **Builder.** Spallacci Group and Valery Homes
- **Location.** King and John streets, Hamilton
- **Building.** 122 units and 13 stories in phase one, 700 units expected in total
- **Sizes.** 555 to 1,084 sq. ft.
- **Pricing.** Starting at the mid-$200,000s
- **Status.** Currently selling
- **Sales Centre.** 112 King St. E., Hamilton
- **Website.** royalconnaught.com

The project overview

A century of Canadian luxury is reimagined at the Royal Connaught, Hamilton's grandest icon. The art deco lobby features dramatic crystal chandeliers and expansive 23-foot ceilings. A seven-storey podium will complement the existing historic facade, introducing galleria shops and cafés into a public square.

Building amenities

An expansive eighth floor rooftop playground connects the towers, offering condo residents over 37,000 sq. ft. of indoor-outdoor social space including a fitness centre, theatre and gaming room. There's a party room with dining amenities, and a rooftop terrace equipped with outdoor fire pits and cabanas for entertaining.

Location and transit

Located between two nearby GO stations, The Royal Connaught is easily accessible by all-day train service to downtown Hamilton from the existing Hunter station and the future James Street station, scheduled to begin service for the 2015 Pan Am Games.

In the neighbourhood

Design and vintage boutiques, coffee shops, craft markets and florists line hip James Street North. Trendy restaurants include Earth to Table Bread Bar, Rapscallion, and Two Black Sheep. Throughway bike lanes and lakeside trails connect residents to the city's east and west sides.

Five affordable food appliances

Whether you're living in a dorm or off-campus this year, being able to prepare your own meals is the most cost-effective — and often the tastiest — way to eat. Here's a lineup of affordable and stylish countertop appliances to get you through the school year. Bon appetit!

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Toaster oven

Heat bagels, toast or even leftover pizza for breakfast. Hamilton Beach's 2-in-1 Toastation not only warms toast but has oven capacity, $50, HamiltonBeach.ca

Coffee maker

Single-brew coffee is easy, less messy and the coffee capsules come in a large variety of flavours. Keurig B130 DeskPro Brewing System, $113, Amazon.ca.

Microwave oven

Warm up the leftovers you stole from home last Sunday. Danby 0.7 Cubic Feet Microwave Oven, $60, HomeDepot.ca.

Tea kettle

With the price of this baby, you can now afford to upgrade your tea blends. Traditions 1 Litre Automatic Electric Kettle, $12, CanadianTire.ca

Popcorn popper

Popcorn is cheap but the entertainment and snack factor is priceless. West Bend's Air Crazy Corn Popper, $19, BedBathAndBeyond.ca

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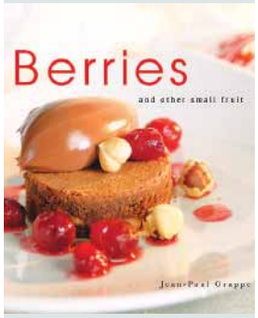
Cookbook of the Week

A berry delicious way to cook



Jean-Paul Grappe, a chef and professor since 1956, is a respected francophone culinary professional and one of the most well-known chefs in Quebec.

In his book Berries and Other Small Fruit, Grappe presents 60 recipes that will allow you to savour berries in ways you never imagined.

Among the dishes served up in this release are Blueberry Potato Crepes, Roasted Pork Tenderloin with Gentian Wine Sauce, Duck Montmorency with Cherry Syrup, Plum and Mascarpone Shortcakes, and more. METRO

Give poultry a hint of the exotic

Lychee and Lemon Grass Chicken. Using fruit to accent dishes offers a whole new taste

1. In a Dutch oven, reduce by half the wine, sake, and lemon juice with the lemongrass. Add the lychee juice. Cool.

2. Heat the butter in a heavy-bottom frying pan. Season the chicken breasts with salt and pepper. Brown them on both sides. Put them into the lychee stock. Marinate for 4 hours on the counter, so all the flavours are infused into the chicken. Add the chicken bouillon to the marinade. Heat to 194 F (90 C), cooking slowly for 20 to 25 minutes. The internal temperature should be 167 F (75 C). Remove the chicken breasts at this point and keep them warm. Reduce the cooking liquid by half.

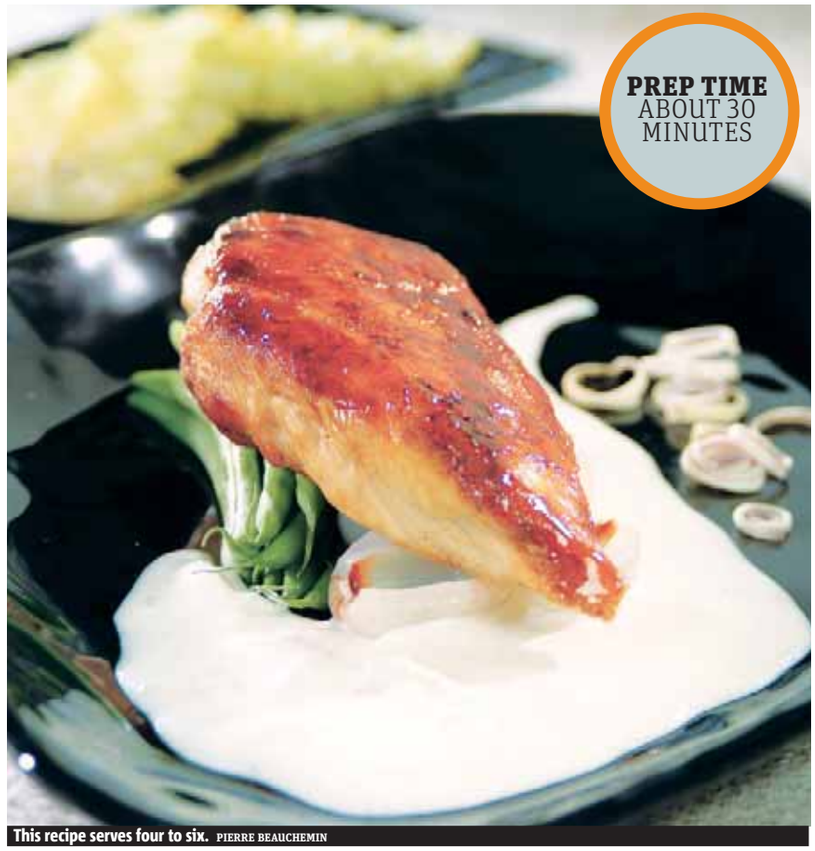
3. In a saucepan, reduce the cream by half. Mix cold water with the thickener (veloutine or potato starch) in a separate bowl. Add it, a little at a time, to the cooking liquid to achieve the desired consistency (wait for the boil because the starch only begins to work at this point). Add the reduced cream and adjust the seasoning. Add the lychees and chicken breasts and heat for a few minutes to 194 F (90 C).

4. Serve with rice and sprinkle with chives.

RECIPES EXCERPTED FROM ROM BERRIES AND OTHER SMALL FRUIT BY JEAN-PAUL GRAPPE (FITZHENRY & WHITESIDE, 2014)

Ingredients

- 6 tbsp (90 ml) white wine
- 6 tbsp (90 ml) sake
- Juice of 2 lemons
- 4 stalks of lemongrass
- 1 cup (250 ml) lychee juice, fresh or unsweetened canned
- 1/2 cup (120 g) unsalted butter
- Salt and freshly ground pepper
- 4 skinless chicken breasts
- 2 chicken bouillon cubes, homemade or store-bought
- 1 1/2 cups (375 ml) heavy cream (35%)
- 2 1/2 oz (75 g) veloutine or potato starch
- 32 lychees, fresh or unsweetened canned
- 2 oz (40 g) chives, minced



This recipe serves four to six. PIERRE BEAUCHEMIN

Side. Vegetable Trio with Ground Cherries

This recipe makes four servings. PIERRE BEAUCHEMIN

"Parsnips do not need water to cook if they are cut into thin rounds," writes Jean-Paul Grappe in his book Berries and Other Small Fruit.

"However, green beans need a lot of salted water to maintain their vibrant green colour. Once they are cooked, they need to be shocked in ice water to remain crisp. Cook the carrots in sticks in a steamer. They should be crunchy, but not raw.

"Keep the ground cherries at room temperature for an hour or two before cooking so they burst open."

1. Heat 1 oz (30 g) of butter in a sauté pan. Add the parsnips, 1/4 cup (60 ml) of water, salt and pepper, and cover. Simmer gently so the parsnips steam. They are perfectly done when they are fork tender.

2. In a heavy-bottom frying pan, heat the rest of the butter. Add the parsnips, green beans, carrots, and ground cherries. On medium heat, sauté them for 4 to 5 minutes, until the cherries burst open and release their juice. Add the chives.

3. Sprinkle the chervil leaves on top and serve hot.

Ingredients

- 1/3 cup (80 g) unsalted butter
- 12 oz (360 g) parsnips, in rounds
- Salt and freshly ground pepper
- 8 oz (240 g) green beans
- 12 oz (360 g) carrots
- 7 oz (200 g) ground cherries
- 3 oz (20 g) chives, minced
- 1/3 oz (10 g) chervil leaves

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PRESERVING COMMUNITIES

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES AND MERCHANTS

Most people think of sweet berries and plump field tomatoes when considering the buy local proposition, but, in fact, the concept can be applied to just about any purchase you make.

Buying local can extend to supporting businesses and merchants in your local neighbourhood or community.

According to a 2013 Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) study, a majority of Canadians now make an effort to buy local or Canadian-made products. Here's why buying local benefits you — and everyone around you.

SHUTTERSTOCK

JOBS
Local businesses produce jobs for the local community. According to a Sustain Ontario document, if every household in Ontario spent $10 on local food there would be an additional $2.4 billion in the local economy at the end of the year and 10,000 new jobs.

FOOD SAFETY
The BDC study showed that international food safety incidents have caused concern.

"We have the best safety and traceability food systems in the world," says Brian Gilvesy, co-chair of the advisory committee, Sustain Ontario, and a cattle farmer in Norfolk County in Ontario.

ECONOMY
According to the BDC study, a locally owned businesses can directly recirculate up to one-third of its revenues in the community. Local companies tend to use local suppliers.

COMMUNITY
Local businesses help preserve the unique character of neighbourhoods. Buying locally provides the opportunity for personal interactions, too, with the farmer, shopkeeper, artist, etc.

HEALTH
Buying local means you are getting the freshest, best quality, in-season products. Locally grown foods provide the maximum nutrients — and taste — for the dollar, says Christina Mann, Taste Real co-ordinator, County of Wellington.

ENVIRONMENT
Along with reducing carbon emissions created when food is transported long distances, "Canadian farmers are world class stewards of the land," Gilvesy says.
For example, pollination is important if you are a farmer growing food and you will make sure that the appropriate floral resources are out there for bees to survive.

New vendors round out Pickering farmers' market

What's new at the Pickering Town Centre Farmers' Market?

With more than two dozen vendors at the outdoor community market showcasing local seasonal produce and delicious prepared foods, there's always something new to discover and enjoy.

New vendors include Tawse Winery from Vineland, Ont. (providing tastings), Smoke's Poutinerie food truck and Diana's Delicious Dog Treats (your dog will love what's on the menu). British Baked Goods and Cracklin' Kettle Corn also recently joined the market, and Heritage House's food truck will be there beginning Aug. 14.

The market — now in its fourth year — hosts farmers who are all from within 100 kilometres of Pickering, and seasonal produce includes berries, kale, and beets.

There's also meat and poultry, maple syrup, fresh flowers, and specialty homemade food products. Local artisans display their arts and crafts, and there's live entertainment on special event days.

"It's a delicious and delightful way to spend the day," says Lorna Murphy of Pickering Town Centre.

The non-profit event also gives back to the community, supporting the Salvation Army and St. Paul's on the Hill food banks.

"The community is encouraged to donate non-perishable food items to the food drive," says Murphy. Last year, more than 10,000 non-perishable food items were collected.

The farmers' market at Pickering Town Centre is held every Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. until Oct. 14.

Visit pickeringtowncentrefarmersmarket.ca.

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Blue Jays back in the chase

Toronto Blue Jays' outfielder Jose Bautista gets a big fist bump from third base coach Luis Rivera on his two-run home run in the second inning on Wednesday night at Rogers Centre. The Jays won 5-1 over Baltimore to pull within four games back of the Orioles for top spot in the AL East. ANDREW FRANCIS WALLACE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Canada has a ray of hope in Raonic

Rogers Cup. Thornhill tennis star claws back vs. Sock to keep Canadian contingent alive at Rexall Centre

Milos Raonic wasn't perfect, but he's still alive at the Rogers Cup.

Raonic had his serve going amid some erratic shots as he came back to beat American Jack Sock 4-6, 7-6 (2), 7-6 (4) on centre court Wednesday night at Rexall Centre.

Fans chanted "Let's go Milos" between points, cheering on the last Canadian left in the field. On Tuesday, all four men who played singles were eliminated, and Eugenie Bouchard bowed out in Montreal.

Raonic stunted that momentum with 15 aces that helped offset some struggles in returning Sock's serve. He won 79 per cent of his first-serve points but was broken in the first set to cause the 23-year-old to fall behind.

In the second set, Raonic held serve before blowing out Sock in the tiebreak. He needed another tiebreak to finish off the match.

"There was a little sliver of an opening and I managed to squeeze my way through," Raonic said immediately after the match.

Raonic will face Julien Benneteau of France on Thursday night. Benneteau upset 11th-seeded Ernests Gulbis Wednesday after beating former world No. 1 Lleyton Hewitt in the first round.

Milos Raonic serves during his nail-biting win over Jack Sock on Wednesday night at York University. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Maria Sharapova blows kisses after her 4-6, 6-3, 6-1 win over No. 27 Garbine Muguruza of Venezuela on Wednesday in Montreal. STREETER LECKA/GETTY IMAGES

By edging Sock, Raonic can keep his recent momentum going.

He won last week's Citi Open in Washington by beating Vasek Pospisil in the first-ever all-Canadian final a month after becoming the first Canadian to reach the Wimbledon semifinals.

Raonic came into the week tied for his career high in the rankings at No. 6.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

AUGMENTED REALITY

- Scan the image with your Metro News app to view a gallery of Wednesday's action in Toronto and Montreal.
- See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

metro AR

Mac's man?

Back to school for Grunwald

Former Toronto Raptor general manager and New York Knicks president Glen Grunwald is expected to be named McMaster University's new director of athletics and recreation as early as Thursday morning.

The man who brought Vince Carter, Tracy McGrady and Chris Bosh to Toronto has been chosen over a deep pool of more than 100 applicants, Torstar News Service has learned.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MLS

Nelsen fined for officiating gripes

Ryan Nelsen's comments about MLS officiating have cost him.

MLS confirmed Wednesday that the Toronto FC manager had been fined for his comments on referee Ted Unkel, following Toronto's 2-1 home loss to Sporting Kansas City on July 26.

Toronto's list of complaints included a no-call in the 23rd minute when Unkel waved play on after Kansas City defender Aurelien Collin, chasing Brazilian striker Gilberto, appeared to clip the Brazilian's leg.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto FC manager Ryan Nelsen GETTY IMAGES FILE

CFL

Argonauts' injury woes worsen

The Toronto Argonauts' battered receiving corps has taken another hit.

Argos head coach Scott Milanovich said Wednesday rookie Anthony Coombs suffered a torn labrum in Toronto's 31-5 road win over Montreal on Friday night. Coombs was in the starting lineup replacing veteran Canadian slotback Andre Durie, who is out with a broken clavicle.

Coombs, a 21-year-old Winnipeg native, will undergo further evaluation to determine if he requires surgery. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada's just one of their connections

Toronto FC's Michael Bradley, pictured, and Will Johnson, the two MLS all-stars with connections to Canada, played together as kids. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLS all-stars. Will Johnson and Michael Bradley have been buddies for a long, long time

Will Johnson and Michael Bradley, the two MLS all-stars with connections to Canada, have their own ties.

Johnson, a Canadian international who captains the Portland Timbers, and Bradley, an American star who plays for Toronto FC, played together as kids in the Chicago area.

"I've lost track of the number of years, to be honest with you," the 27-year-old Johnson said of their friendship. "We grew up in Chicago playing youth soccer together a long long time ago.

Bradley's father Bob was coach of the Chicago Fire from 1998 to 2002.

Johnson, born in Toronto to English parents, moved to England as a baby and settled in the Chicago area at the age of 10.

Johnson says Bradley was special on the soccer field even as a pre-teen.

"He's always had the technique, always had the graft and the grind and hard work," said Johnson. "He doesn't change. He does Michael. He was just as humble and hard-working back then as he is now."

Bradley says it doesn't take long to see how important Johnson is to his team.

"The way he's able, in the centre of the field, to take care of things … get the ball and find the right guys."

As young pros, the two midfielders were also teammates at SC Heerenveen in the Netherlands.

Bradley, 27, says the two have remained close even when their careers have taken them far apart.

"He's a guy that I consider one of my closest friends," said Bradley. "To have the chance to spend a few days with him and be back on the same team is enjoyable for sure."

So did they dream of it?

"We probably did actually," said Bradley. "I'm not sure we had any reason to. But I think like all kids we dreamt big, that's for sure."

The MLS all-stars play Bayern Munich on Wednesday night at Providence Park.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A special chance

"I was at his wedding and things like that … when you're a 10-year-old boy just playing soccer on a random field, you never imagine this in your wildest dreams."

Will Johnson speaking of playing alongside his buddy and fellow all-star Michael Bradley

Wednesday in Portland

Go to metronews.ca for results from Wednesday night's all-star game between European powerhouse Bayern Munich and the MLS's best.

Women's World Cup

Real grass may prove impossible

Despite calls by elite athletes to cover artificial turf with real grass for the Women's World Cup in 2015, doing so might be logistically impossible.

Temporarily replacing the turf in the six Canadian fields would cost roughly $1.5 million. But it wouldn't be safe for a lengthy tournament, said Bill Searle, president of NGF Golf. His company trucked in four-inch sod for a 10-day international friendly at BMO Field in 2009 at a cost of $250,000.

"Any team would not want to put their players out on a field that had not rooted in," he said.

The 24-team, month-long tournament kicks off June 6, 2015, and could also overlap with the CFL pre-season that will be played in many of the same venues.

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Toronto FC

Quillan Roberts recalled from USL

Toronto FC has recalled goalkeeper Quillan Roberts from its USL PRO Club affiliate.

Roberts, 19, has appeared and started in 17 matches with Wilmington Hammerheads FC, logging 1,514 minutes, with a record of 5-4-8 while registering six clean sheets.

He recently appeared in Toronto FC's July 23 friendly versus Tottenham Hotspur.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Real Madrid

Benzema's deal extended to 2019

Real Madrid says France striker Karim Benzema has agreed to extend his contract with the European champions to the end of the 2018-19 season.

Since joining Real Madrid in 2009, he's scored 111 goals in 235 games, helping to win the Champions League last season along with one Spanish league and two Copa del Rey titles.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

C'est la vie, Costa Rica

France's Eve Perisset, left, and Costa Rica's Krista Chavarria battle for the ball during first half of a 2014 FIFA U20 Women's World Cup match on Wednesday in Montreal. France won 5-1.

GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Reinhart's eyes set on the world

Buffalo Sabres' new signing Sam Reinhart wants to focus on nothing else but making Canada's national junior hockey team.

The 18-year-old Reinhart is taking part in Canada's one-week development camp being held just outside Montreal. The squad is preparing for the 2015 world junior championship, which gets underway Dec. 26 in Toronto and Montreal.

Reinhart joins 38 other young Canadians vying for a spot on head coach Benoit Groulx's final 22-man roster.

"I'm here this week trying to give myself the best opportunity to make the team," said Reinhart, who scored in Canada's 6-2 victory over the Czech Republic on Tuesday. The game was the first of four exhibition matches involving the Russian and Czech national junior teams.

Sam Reinhart
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Reinhart has hockey coursing through his veins. His father Paul played 11 National Hockey League seasons with the Atlanta/Calgary Flames and Vancouver Canucks in the 1970s and '80s. Sam's brother Max was drafted by Calgary in 2010, and his brother Griffin was chosen fourth overall by the New York Islanders in 2012.

Sam Reinhart did one better, as he was drafted second overall by the Sabres in this year's draft. Three weeks ago, Reinhart signed a three-year entry-level contract with Buffalo.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Not concerned

"It's not really on my mind right now. "

Sam Reinhart about possibly missing the next world junior championship if Buffalo decides not to release him to play.

Ekblad out

Aaron Ekblad suffered a concussion in Canada's world junior exhibition game against the Czech Republic and will miss the rest of summer development camp.
Hockey Canada said that Ekblad, the No. 1 pick in June's NHL draft, is expected to make a "full recovery" and be ready for Florida Panthers training camp in September.

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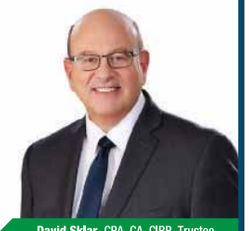

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Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

metro AR

→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Something out of the ordinary will happen today that you will be able to take advantage of. A few days from now you will be singing your own praises!

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
The planets will give you the chance to be of service to someone who does not share your strength of character. What you do for others now will, one day, come back to you.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Today's Sun-Mercury link will do wonders for your confidence and popularity. Just remember that it's not possible to accept each and every invitation.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Money isn't everything but it has its place in the world and with more of it you'd be able to do some of the things you have dreamed about. Use your talents in a more focused way.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
The planets will give a major boost to your self-belief over the next 24 hours and before the day is over you will have started something that has the potential to transform your life.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Cosmic activity in Leo may at times make you doubt yourself but today you have enough mental energy to overcome that negative outlook.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You'll come into contact with people who share your ideals. They'll also boost your belief that you can make a difference by working with others.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
A career change is likely soon. Whether it is a change you make or a change that is forced on you remains to be seen but if you do feel so inclined then make the first move.

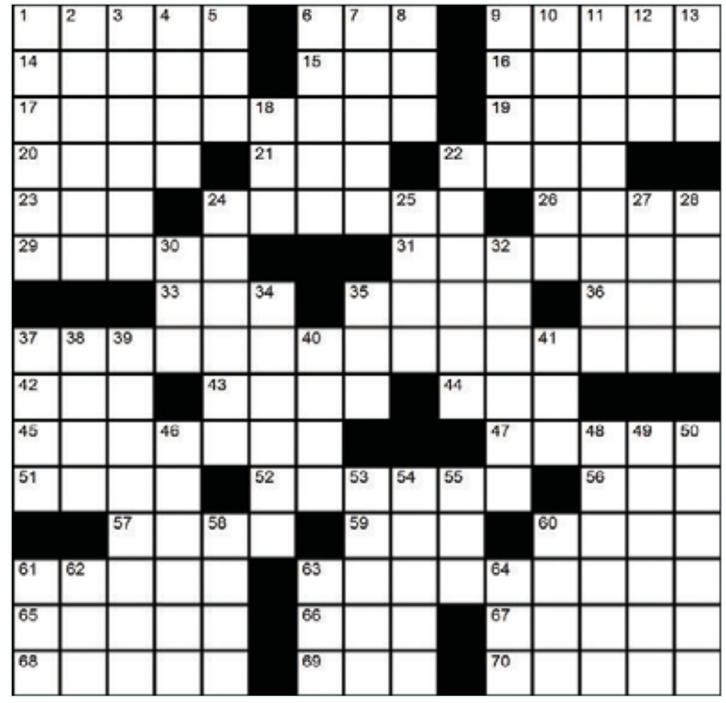
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
No matter how busy you may be you won't be satisfied until you have booked a vacation or promised friends that you'll visit them over the weekend. Travel brings out the best in you.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You have fears that can hold you back from fulfilling your potential, but today's influences will help you confront them and overcome them.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
If there is someone you want to get closer to, you must let them know how you feel. On the work front, too, the more you open up to others, the more they will want to do for you.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You may be the sort who spends more time dreaming than doing but today the planets will inspire you to take a more hands-on approach.

Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



Across
1. Grind to _ __
6. Shopping estab.
9. Colorado resort
14. Lenny Kravitz's alias in his early career, __ Blue
15. Yes: French
16. Depart
17. Celebrity chef offerings
19. __ fork
20. Toronto's University and Danforth, e.g.
21. Communication syst.
22. __-neck sweater
23. Bird bill
24. "Every __ You Take" by The Police
26. Verdi opera
29. Movie category
31. Nice money amount: 2 wds.
33. Alien sitcom
35. Gomer __ (Jim Nabors role)
36. Inventor Mr. Whitney
37. "Electric Pow Wow Drum" DJ crew from Ottawa: 4 wds.
42. Baby for Kanga
43. Viva voce
44. Letters for T-shirt sizes
45. __ of Parliament
47. Ex-Montreal baseball team
51. Parkay, for one
52. PEI part
56. Compass pt.
57. Scandinavian rugs
59. Record co.
60. Wholly __ __ part
61. Warship-related
63. Joey __, Newfoundland's first provincial Premier, in 1949
65. Laud
66. Apple devices platform
67. __ Bay, Newfoundland
68. "This is __ __ sudden!"
69. Medical pros
70. Canadian guitarist Mr. Cook

Down
1. Denys __ (Canadian movie director)
2. Vacuum†cleaner company
3. Particular protozoan
4. Monetary units in Albania
5. From A __ _ (Step-by-step)
6. Archie Comics character
7. "__, Fran and Ollie" (Classic puppet TV show)
8. Poetic contraction
9. And
10. St. Lawrence __
11. 100th Anniversary! Calgary luxury hotel which opened in 1914: The Fairmont __
12. Ms. Longoria
13. Mr. Beatty
18. Paddle
22. Pops in the freezer for a bit
24. Rocky __ (Sylvester Stallone role)
25. Texter's sign-off
27. Mr. Hill of "The West Wing"
28. During
30. Spring month in Montreal
32. Considered
34. "__ Bueller's Day Off" (1986)
35. Chum
37. Son of folk legend Woody
38. Work hard
39. City in Quebec
40. Islets
41. Gladiator's 560
46. Lorde song
48. Eva and Juan in "Evita" (1996)
49. Kitchen's tears inducers
50. E-Mail getter, say
53. Squeezed fruit
54. Gather
55. Naught
58 Choir voice
60. "_ __ is me." (Sniff, sniff)
61. PBS funding org.
62. GNR's Mr. Rose
63. Gentleman's title
64. President after JFK

Yesterday's Crossword

Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

		3	1		5	9		
	1	7		8			5	
8		2				3	6	1
7			3		2			6
	3			7			4	
1			4		9			5
2	7	5				6		4
	8			1		5	9	
		1	5		7	8		

Yesterday's Sudoku

1	3	7	5	6	2	8	9	4
9	5	4	8	1	3	6	7	2
2	6	8	4	9	7	5	3	1
3	8	5	1	7	6	4	2	9
7	4	9	3	2	5	1	6	8
6	1	2	9	4	8	3	5	7
5	7	1	6	8	9	2	4	3
8	2	3	7	5	4	9	1	6
4	9	6	2	3	1	7	8	5

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2014 ELANTRA GT L

HWY: 5.8L/100 KM
CITY: 8.5L/100 KM▼

WAS ~~$20,180~~

ALL-IN PRICING $14,995‡

INCLUDES $5,185 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS[Ω]

WELL EQUIPPED:

AIR CONDITIONING • AM/FM/SIRIUSXM™/CD/MP3 6 SPEAKER AUDIO SYSTEM W/AUX/USB JACKS • ELECTRONIC STABILITY CONTROL • STABILITY MANAGEMENT

ELANTRA GT L 6-SPEED MANUAL. $5,185 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS[Ω], FEES, DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED. PLUS HST.

Limited model shown♦

2014 TUCSON GL FWD

HWY: 7.2L/100 KM
CITY: 10.0L/100 KM▼

WAS ~~$23,395~~

ALL-IN PRICING $19,995‡

INCLUDES $3,400 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS[Ω]

WELL EQUIPPED:

BLUETOOTH® HANDS-FREE PHONE SYSTEM • ELECTRONIC STABILITY CONTROL • HEATED FRONT SEATS • REMOTE KEYLESS ENTRY WITH ALARM

TUCSON 2.0L GL FWD MANUAL. $3,400 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS[Ω], FEES, DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED. PLUS HST.

INTRODUCING THE ALL-NEW 2015 SONATA

2014 IIHS TOP SAFETY PICK+

WHEN EQUIPPED WITH FORWARD COLLISION WARNING. For more information visit www.iihs.org

Because you can't always count on your guardian angel

Limited model shown♦

HWY: 6.7L/100 KM
CITY: 9.8L/100 KM▼

LEASE THE SONATA GL FOR $119 BI-WEEKLY AT 1.9%◊ FOR 36 MONTHS

WITH $2,750 DOWN

WELL EQUIPPED:

HEATED FRONT SEATS • ELECTRONIC STABILITY CONTROL • TRACTION CONTROL SYSTEM • REAR-VIEW CAMERA • STABILITY MANAGEMENT

Dealers may charge additional fees for administration of up to $499. Charges may vary by Dealer.

5 YEAR WARRANTY

5-year/100,000 km Comprehensive Limited Warranty††
5-year/100,000 km Powertrain Warranty
5-year/100,000 km Emission Warranty

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HyundaiCanada.com

®The Hyundai names, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trademarks owned by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. ‡Cash price of $10,995/$14,995/$19,995 available on all remaining new in stock 2014 Accent L 6-speed Manual/Elantra GT L 6-speed Manual/Tucson 2.0L GL FWD Manual models. Prices include Delivery and Destination charges of $1,595/$1,595/$1,760, fees, levies and all applicable charges (excluding HST). Prices exclude registration, insurance, PPSA, license fees and dealer admin. fees of up to $499. Fees may vary by dealer. Delivery and Destination charge includes freight, P.D.E. and a full tank of gas. ◊Leasing offer available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on a new 2015 Sonata GL with an annual lease rate of 1.9%. Bi-weekly lease payment of $119 for a 36-month walk-away lease. Down Payment of $2,750 and first monthly payment required. Total lease obligation is $12,032. Lease offer includes Delivery and Destination of $1,695, levies, and all applicable charges (excluding HST). Lease offer excludes registration, insurance, PPSA, license fees and dealer admin. fees of up to $499. Fees may vary by dealer. $0 security deposit on all models. 20,000 km allowance per year applies. Additional charge of $0.12/km on all models except Genesis Sedan and Equus where additional charge is $0.25/km. Delivery and Destination charge includes freight, P.D.E. and a full tank of gas. ΩPrice adjustments are calculated against the vehicle's starting price. Price adjustments of up to $4,185/$5,185/$3,400/$7,500 available on in stock 2014 Accent 4-Door L Manual/2014 Elantra GT L 6-Speed Manual/2014 Tucson 2.0L GL Manual/2014 Sonata Hybrid Limited with Technology. Price adjustments applied before taxes. Offer cannot be combined or used in conjunction with any other available offers. Offer is non-transferable and cannot be assigned. No vehicle trade-in required. ♦Prices of models shown: 2014 Accent 4 Door GLS/2014 Elantra GT SE w/Tech/2014 Tucson 2.4L Limited AWD/2015 Sonata Limited are $20,530/$28,530/$35,495/$34,830. Prices include Delivery and Destination charges of $1,595/$1,595/$1,760/$1,695, levies and all applicable charges (excluding HST). Prices exclude registration, insurance, PPSA, license fees and dealer admin. fees of up to $499. Fees may vary by dealer. ▼Fuel consumption for new 2014 Accent 4-Door L (HWY 5.3L/100KM; City 7.5L/100KM); 2014 Elantra GT L Manual (HWY 5.8L/100KM; City 8.5L/100KM); 2014 Tucson 2.0L GL FWD Manual (HWY 7.2L/100KM; City 10.0L/100KM); 2015 Sonata GL Auto (HWY 6.7L/100KM; City 9.8L/100KM) are based on Manufacturer Testing. Actual fuel efficiency may vary based on driving conditions and the addition of certain vehicle accessories. Fuel economy figures are used for comparison purposes only. ΔThe Hyundai Accent received the lowest number of problems per 100 vehicles among small cars in the proprietary J.D. Power 2014 Initial Quality Study℠ (IQS). Study based on responses from 86,118 new-vehicle owners, measuring 239 models and measures opinions after 90 days of ownership. Propriety study results are based on experiences and perceptions of owners surveyed in February-May 2014. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com. ††‡♦ΩOffers available for a limited time and subject to change or cancellation without notice. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. Visit www.hyundaicanada.com or see dealer for complete details. The SiriusXM™ name is a registered trademark of SiriusXM Satellite Radio Inc. All other trademarks and trade names are those of their respective owners. ††Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions.